Dear Friends,

Well, the construction has begun. You will notice dumpsters and fencing with some parking spaces blocked off. It might be a good idea to come early to find a parking spot on Sunday. The remodeling is an example of how we have to adjust to the challenges of life that come our way, isn’t it. We have to make adjustments and sometimes even change directions to deal with whatever happens to take place. I know I shared more about this a few weeks ago and, I guess, I just want to remind myself.

Many of you have asked about our new associate and when he is coming. I have been in contact with the Bishop’s office and I am supposed to get an update in a few days. Like many of you, I am concerned and want to get Yiwen here and get things moving. Hopefully, this will happen soon. If not, we will have to get some things done anyway. It may take some extra work, but we can do it.

It was great to have our Sanctuary Choir back this past Sunday. I remind you, if you want to sing in the choir there is room for you—just show up on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. Also, a special call is going out to have persons play in our “Hand Bell Choir.” Bob Weiss mentioned to me that we need AT LEAST one more person to be a part of the choir. So, please, call the Church Office (457-2416) and let us know if you are willing to serve the church in this way.

As we move into the fall, I want to encourage you to watch for new small group and study opportunities that will be advertised. As is customary, things don’t really get moving until after Labor Day, but that is coming very soon. These small groups are an opportunity to get to know people that you may not know as well as grow in your faith. Be looking for those opportunities to be publicized in the near future. By the way, we do have some great Church School classes that meet every week at 9:30 a.m. I encourage you to give those a try. There is great learning and sharing that goes on. Did you know that the Sanctuary Choir and Hand Bell Choir are both great small group opportunities? It isn’t all about performing on Sun-day; there is much sharing and fellowship that goes on each week at rehearsal. Trust me and give these a try.

Finally, I want to encourage you to invite new persons to worship. There are many neighbors, co-workers, friends, and students that do not attend church anywhere. I believe we have much to offer people who will help them as they deal with the stresses and strains of life. I, also, believe that when new people become a part of our church family they bring new energy and new ideas that strengthen us in our ministry. So, take the opportunity to invite people to worship with us.

See you Sunday.

Alan

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Altar flowers this week are given by Jim & Mari Ann Oberg in honor of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary.

Indoor Greeters: Marilyn Mitchener and Sunday School class member

Acolytes: 10:45 John and Madison Voss

Sound System Operators: 8:15 Scott Wright, 10:45 Keven Mitchell

Liturgists: 8:15 Joyce Vancil, 10:45 Janet Earnest

Ushers: Mike Neill, Captain; 8:15 Don & Susan Frey 10:45 Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Lori Palmer, Krishna Balasubramanian, Will Stephens

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Our Mission Statement: “Called together by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim God’s presence and love in the world through prayer, worship, education and service. We invite children, youth, and adults to become disciples of Jesus Christ, live fully in the Holy Spirit, and embrace God’s love.”
23 Thursday
4:00  Don Boehne, Trip Meeting, Heritage Room
5:45  Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00  Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

24 Friday
9:30  Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:00  Si Audubon Society—Heritage Room

25 Saturday
8:15  Worship Service
9:30  Sunday School
10:45  Worship Service

26 Sunday
8:15  Worship Service
9:30  Sunday School
10:45  Worship Service

27 Monday
8:30  Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00  Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403
10:15  Golden Yoga, Room 404
6:00  Interfaith Council, Heritage Room

28 Tuesday
9:00  - 3  Healing Touch (by appt. only), Rm. 308

29 Wednesday
9:00-3  Healing Touch (by appt. only), Rm. 308

30 Thursday
5:45  Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00  Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

31 Friday
9:30  Golden Yoga, Room 404

1 Saturday

2 Sunday  Communion Sunday
8:15  Worship Service
9:30  Sunday School
10:45  Worship Service

SEPTEMBER

Parish Nurse:  8:15  Carol White; 11:45  Dana Oberg

CHORAL READING CLINIC
September 11, 2018 - 7 p.m.
at the First United Methodist Church

Please join us for the opening event of our 2018-2019 season. Our guest clinician will be Jeff Parker. Jeff will introduce us to a wide range of anthems by noted composers. Jeff will soon complete his eleventh year as Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN where he also serves as Executive Director of the School of Fine Arts. Jeff is a native of Marion, IL, where his parents and extended family still live. There is no charge for attending, however, please RSVP to Gail White, gailwhite11@gmail.com, or (618) 528-3691, so that we can have music packets prepared. Music packets will be provided by Midwest Sheet Music, St. Louis, MO. If you need directions to the church, or special accommodations, please let us know.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Linda Barnhill & family & friends, on the passing of her brother, Robert Reid, who died on August 15, 2018.

Call for Volunteers: We need volunteers to serve as Ushers for the September 2, 10:45 a.m. service. Thank you!

Save the Date: Join us at Hunan’s for Saturday Night Live, September 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Your hosts for the evening will be Jan Waggoner and Elaine Crain.

New Address: John & Aveniel Cherry, The Landings—Apt. 304, 2100 Reed Station Parkway, Carbondale, IL 62901

First United Methodist Church,

Words simply cannot express our gratitude for y’all. You set the bar high for an amazing summer. In just one week you changed our families lives forever, and we are so grateful. You brought energy, passion, a love for Christ and a willingness to serve and build relationships, which was truly special.

We appreciate all that you did.

With love, Hancock County Staff
Rachael, Colin, Kelsey, Carson

Disciples for Sunday, August 26, 2018
Outside Greeters: The Hinde Family: Sara, John, Cayden, and Carlisle
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15 Barb Bedient; 10:45 Angie Voss
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Revita & Fred Black; 10:45 Linda & Rob Lucas
Children’s Church: K-5: Rob & Linda Lucas and Youth Helpers
Children’s Church Registration: George & Shirley Everingham
August Nametags: Carolyn Saunders
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 6 Priscilla Circle  
1:00 p.m.

September 7 Church Women United 
10:30 a.m., Heritage Room

September 18 Morning Circle, 9:30 a.m.

**Good Samaritan Ministries** sent a progress report of its recent work. Its Soup Kitchen served 31,792 meals during the 2018 fiscal year. The Food Pantry served almost 6,000 families including 17,713 individuals and over 6,700 children. The donations Good Sam received make up a little over ½ of its budget. Good Sam also assisted 556 people, including over 358 children with rent, utilities and other payments to keep them in their homes. Support can be provided by calling 618-457-5794 or go to www.sicares.com. FUMC supports Good Sam with our two major annual offerings!

**Marion Medical Mission** (MMM) reports great progress with its wells for Africa. A family foundation in Atlanta has partnered with MMM and funded over 8,000 wells. A Benedictine benediction was included in the report: “May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe you can make a difference in this world, so you can do what others claim cannot be done.” The plan this year is to build 2,900 wells. The first construction will start September 1. The program will expand into three new areas in Africa. This leap of faith will require an additional $200,000 of donations. There are wells to build, field officers to hire, motor bikes to purchase, and other details to resolve. MMM thanks FUMC for being the power behind their work.

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

*Missions Committee*

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**This Saturday, August 25,** marks the centennial of the birth of American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist, **Leonard Bernstein.** Probably known best for his musical "West Side Story," Bernstein was Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from 1957 to 1969, but conducted and played with orchestras all over the world. He was especially interested in making classical music accessible to young people, which he did through things like affordable concerts and a series of fifty-three televised Young People’s Concerts which aired in prime time on CBS.

A composer of ballet, opera, musicals, film scores, orchestral works, chamber music, vocal music, piano music and more, Leonard Bernstein’s music was not always met with critical acclaim. His mark on American music is undeniable. His interpretations as a conductor were sometimes harshly criticized, but he championed new music and introduced audiences worldwide to innovative and challenging works.

In honor of the centenary of his birth, we will be featuring two works by Bernstein during the services this next Sunday, August 26. The Prelude is an instrumental arrangement of "Make Our Garden Grow" from the finale of his operetta *Candide*. The Offertory will feature “A Simple Song” from Bernstein’s *Mass.*

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**Break Time—**
Story Hour will return for the Fall Session in September.

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**WEDNESDAY STORY TIME**
in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library

10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Join Ms. Jane for stories, games, music, crafts, and snacks.

Preschool—early elementary

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**DANIEL PLAN ESSENTIALS**

Everyone welcome!

Join us Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Room 403

Contact Necia for more information
Take time to wish Happy Birthday to all of our church members and friends who celebrate birthdays in September 2018

| September 1 | Beverly Conrad  | Kathy Balsano  | John Davis  |
| September 2 | Milly Kaiser  | Nicole Byford  | Sandra Walker  |
| September 3 | Doris Osborn  | September 14 | Jan Verduin  |
| September 4 | Hannah Gilchrist  | September 15 | Mary Beth Aguilar  |
| September 5 | Ron Stadt  | Lucas Grotts  | September 16 | Ella Bailey  |
| September 6 | Eileen Walker  | Jay Phelps II  | Nathan Wright  | Allison Wortel  |
| September 7 | Steve Crippen  | Don Rush  | Chelsea Duke  | September 18 | Mike Hanes  |
| September 9 | Phil Robertson  | Kathryn Swindell  | Linda Benz-Foskey  | September 19 | Samantha Mitchell  |
| September 10 | Ron Benton  | Darrin Caldwell  | Reese Funk  | September 20 | Don Ahrendt  |
| September 11 | Tiffany Ramsden  | Bruce Fink  | September 12 | Anna Marie Burke  | September 21 | Deanna Diel  |
| September 13 | Jane Johnson  | September 22 | Brad Misner  | September 23 | Irene Carlton  |
| September 14 | July Davis  | September 24 | Brian Butler  | September 25 | Frances Shiplett  |
| September 15 | Mary Davis  | September 26 | Barb Swinburne  | September 27 | Linda Meredith  |
| September 16 | September 17 | Michelle Neill  | September 28 | Jim Oberg  |
| September 17 | September 18 | September 29 | September 30 | Rick Erickson  |

**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.

*Sunday School* - Main Topic: “The People Jesus Met”

*August 26 Sunday School—“The Man by the Pond”*

**Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.**

Fate 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. Join us for a new study starting on August 26: “Far of the Other,” by William H. Williamson. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404 (the Chapel). Everyone welcome!

**The Electives Class** - Scripture studies are led by Rev. John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

**Small Group Opportunities**

**The Daniel Plan Essentials** meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.

**Grateful Hearts** has recessed for the summer and will resume in Fall, 2018.

**Youth Group** has recessed for the summer and will resume for the 2018-19 school year.

**Men’s Group** - All men of church are invited to coffee and refreshments on Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. We discuss anything and everything from the perspective of our relationship with God.