Dear Friends,

In recent weeks a lot has been going on in this country. We have had situations of violence and conflict that have had a lot of reverberations throughout our nation. We live in tumultuous times, and it seems that no easing of the tension is in the near future. Much of what we have seen has not had a direct impact on us, but it still has an affect that causes us to feel a sense of uneasiness. We may feel limited in how we can respond to these events from where we are, but we can respond where we are by not allowing this kind of anger and bitterness to enter into our mind and spirit. It can have an impact that affects our attitude toward others, particularly those who might not agree with our position on things. We need to prayerfully keep our hearts from falling into this trap of our day and time.

I was having a conversation with another pastor recently and we were talking about what is happening in our country. I shared with him my personal commitment that I made a long time ago about people who disagree with my position on issues. Sometimes these issues have been religious and sometimes they have not. My approach has always been to try not to allow myself to begin to become angry and look for ways to hurt or discredit the integrity of the person I disagree with, even though they may have not refrained from trying to discredit mine. My reasoning has always been two-fold: 1) I don’t see anything remotely Christian about attacking another person’s integrity because they disagree with me. I know there is the philosophy in our world that the “end justifies the means” and so whatever it takes to “win” my position is acceptable. Whatever I can say or do to destroy the opposing person is acceptable. I just can’t see that as Christ-like; 2) I might be wrong and the other person might be right. I don’t have a corner on the knowledge of world events or what God might be saying to our world through others. My position is “my” position, which of course I think is right, but that may not mean it really is right -- it is my position. The other person just might be right and I may be wrong.

Many times, in moments of disagreement, when I have seriously listened to my opposition, I have found myself thinking more deeply about what my conclusions are, in a particular situation, and sometimes firm up what I believe or softened what I believe. This isn’t easy, and sometimes I do a better job at this than I do at other times, but this is certainly my intent when disagreement comes; and I expect the same from those people I can agree with. It is hard to stay friends with those that I don’t agree with, but I think it is worth the effort. To not allow opinions to interfere with a friendship is a great testimony of how strong that relationship really is. If I am truly friends with someone, I won’t let our differing opinions damage our relationship. I pray, each day, to not allow opinions to interfere with a friendship is a great testimony of how strong that relationship really is.

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I pray, each day, that somehow throughout this country we can find a peaceful way to disagree with others without making personal attacks - either verbal or physical - on the opposition. Somehow we have to break this cycle of violence and hate before it destroys us. Will you join me in this prayer?

See you Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

**PARISH PULSE**
As of August 29, 2017

**30 Wednesday**
10:00 Children’s Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey
Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
6:00 Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Rm. 409

**31 Thursday**
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Room 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Friday**
10:30 Church Women United, Heritage Room
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Saturday**
10:45 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service and Children’s Church
12:00 Fall Kick-Off All-Church Picnic, Turley Park
Bus transportation is available.

**1 Friday**
10:30 Church Women United, Heritage Room
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**2 Saturday**
6:00 Saturday Night Live, Bandana’s Restaurant
Evening hosts are Jean & Don Boehne

**3 Sunday**
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service

**4 Monday**
Labor Day Holiday
Office Closed

**5 Tuesday**
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 CANCELED Daniel Plan
10:15 CANCELED Golden Yoga
7:00 Board of Trustees, Heritage Room
7:15 Arrow Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

**6 Wednesday**
10:00 Children’s Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey
Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
1:30 Wednesday Women’s Fellowship, Heritage Room

**7 Thursday**
1:00 Priscilla Circle, Room 210
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga, Rm. 404
6:00 Education Committee, Room 410
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**8 Friday**
9:30 CANCELED Golden Yoga
10:00 UMW Executive Board Meeting, Heritage Rm.

**9 Saturday**
10 Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service and Children’s Church

**12:00 Fall Kick-Off All-Church Picnic, Turley Park**
Bus transportation is available.

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**Flood Buckets Donations Needed:** Beginning this Sunday, September 3, the Missions Committee will be collecting donations for much needed Flood Buckets, and will continue to for four weeks. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by many. Thank you. Missions Committee

**Handbells Rehearsals Notice:** Handbells resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 4:45 p.m. Please contact Bob Weiss if you are interested in ringing.

**All Church Fall Kick-Off Picnic:** Join in the festivities on Sunday, September 10 at Turley Park for the All Church Fall Kick-Off Picnic right after our late service. Our church van/bus will be available, starting at noon, to shuttle anyone needing a ride. See you there!

**New Book in Our Library:** The Faith Community Nurses of southern Illinois and SIH, have given FUMC a book for the church library entitled, “Unmask the Predators,” by Lisa Cherry and Kalyn Cherry Waller. It’s about protecting your child from predators - - even people you know - - and how the family responds. It is in the non-fiction area.

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**Fall Kick-Off Picnic**
12:00 Noon - Sunday, September 10
Turley Park

Bring a dish to serve 10-12 to share.
An All-Church Event!!!!
Meat, Table service, & water provided
Bring a potluck dish to share • Invite your family and friends
Dress casual for church & join us after the late service.

**RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

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**Disciples for Sunday, September 3, 2017**

**Outside Greeters:** Sandy Gobert and Jon Gobert
**Van Drivers:** John Graig and Brian Gorecki
**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Jan Verduin; 10:45 Sara Hinde
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Carol & Gordon White; 10:45 Mary Beth Aguilar, Ellen Cotten
**Nursery:** - Info, - Youth
**September Nametags:** Sally Washburn
**September Communion Committee:** 8:15 Ron & Deanna Diel; 10:45 Steve & Crystal Mitchell, Team Leaders; Catherine Mitchell, Mike & Paula, Branden and Rhys McNally

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**ATTENTION**

The Board of Trustees is planning to undertake a **FALL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION** which includes the two church garden beds along University Avenue.

Anyone interested in having any of these plants are welcome to remove what they want.

This, however, **DOES NOT** include the corner perennial flowerbed on University and Main.

Please remove plants before September 14.

If you want to participate in the restoration, or have questions, please call Jean Boehne, 618-549-1319.
September Events

September 7  Priscilla Circle,
              1:00 p.m.  Room 210

September 13  Women’s Wednesday
               Fellowship, 1:30 p.m.
               Heritage Room, “Bad Girls of the Bible”

September 16  Cache River District Fall Meeting, Harrisburg First UMC, 9:00 a.m.
          Speaker: Betty Parton
          Things to Bring: Lessie Bates - Gift cards (Walmart, Subway, McDonald’s)
                           Cunningham - Men’s body wash - Gift cards (Walmart, Dollar Store McDonald’s)
          Information: Sue Stucky, 618-995-1309

September 19  Morning Circle, 9:30 a.m.  Heritage Room

THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Connie Wieck, FUMC’s covenant relationship missionary, has been in the USA for part of July and August on her itineration visit. She has met with numerous Methodist churches and organizations during this time.

Her work is involved with the Amity Foundation, a Chinese non-governmental organization, started by Chinese Christians. Amity is the United Methodist partner organization in China.

Her position with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries has been renewed for another three years. She returned to Luzhou Vocational and Technical College on August 24 to start up the school year that begins September 4. She will be teaching 150 newly-arrived English Education majors, and also 150 seniors, who will soon be departing the college as English teachers at the elementary and junior high levels. Her newsletter includes a wish list and an address for newsletter support that will be posted on our bulletin board. Consult it if you wish to help her with her work in China.

Missions Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS...
A Fun Evening for the Entire Family
at Bandy’s Pumpkin Patch
Saturday, September 30  •  4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Hayride, play barn, maze, bonfire, hotdogs, s’mores, and more!
SPACE IS LIMITED - DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS SEPTEMBER 24.
Sign up in the Atrium or contact Necia

WINTER COAT DRIVE
YOUTH AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Saturday, October 7  •  10:00 a.m. - noon
Help collect donations. People will drive up to the parking lot entrance where volunteers will take the winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarf donations. Contact Necia if you can help.

CHECK IT OUT!!!
in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
What Happens When I Talk to God?
The Power of Prayer for Boys and Girls
by Stormie Omartian

Children’s Story Time
Parents and children are invited to join us each
Wednesday  •  10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Jane Robertson shares stories, craft activities, music, and lots of activities for preschool & early elementary children!!!
YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday Evenings at FUMC
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Junior high and senior high youth will meet on Wednesday nights at the church, beginning August 30th!
Come join us for games, Biblical discussion, fun activities, and prayer.

ANITA HUTTON AND FRIENDS IN CONCERT

SEPTEMBER 17 • 3:00 p.m.

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”
Celebrating 25 years at the keys, and thanking the Congregation for 25 years of support!

Anita Hutton on piano, and joining her will be Jim Beers, percussion, Shadi Frick, saxophone, and Bob Weiss, trombone

THE BIG EVENT

HOSTED BY WOMEN FOR CHANGE
MARCH FOR UNITY
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY OF CARBONDALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

8:00 A.M. MEET AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING STREETS: (Marion-Monroe, Marion-Jackson, or Marion-Willow)
AND JOIN TOGETHER AND MARCH TO ATTUCKS PARK

Live Music • Musical Guest • Words of Inspiration • Meet the Mayor • Meet the Women for Change • FREE Food and much more!

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 in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.

The Investors Class - Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They have just started a new study, “A Grace-Full Life,” by Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds. They meet in Room 404. Everyone welcome!

The Electives Class - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room

Small Group Opportunities

The Daniel Plan meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts - Start date in the Fall will be announced

Jr. High Youth - Youth Group meetings are held Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Room 409. Please gather in the Atrium upon arrival.

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