Dear Friends,

As most of you know, our new Associate Pastor has arrived and moved into the associate parsonage. His name is Yiwen Bi [Yee-win] and is a native of Beijing, China. He graduated in May from Vanderbilt University School of Theology with a Master of Divinity Degree. Yiwen has worked in various United Methodist Churches in the Nashville area and has worked with children, youth, and adults. He will need all of the help and encouragement we can give him as he tries to find his way into church life here and find his way around Carbondale. One of the hardest things in ministry is to move to a new community where you do not know anyone and meet three hundred people all at once, your church people. Those people have an advantage over you in that they know your name and you do not know theirs as yet. So, make it a point when you see Yiwen, to tell him your name and welcome him into our church family. There will be a time of “officially” welcoming him a little later.

Our Charge Conference, the annual business meeting for our church, will be held on September 27, at 6 p.m. This is earlier than we often have it and so we are going to have to get all of our work done as soon as possible. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to put together our slate of officers for 2019, our church budget, as well as give reports on what we accomplished in 2018. Plan now to attend Charge Conference on September 27, 6 p.m. Our new District Superintendent, Stan Irvin, will conduct the meeting. This will be a great time to meet him and welcome him to our District.

Once in a while, people give to me or send to me sayings and words of wisdom. I often work those into sermons somehow or use them in some other way. I received one a few weeks ago that has been one I have thought about ever since. The words were: “Most people want to serve God….but only in an advisory capacity.” There is a lot of truth here isn’t there. Often when we pray we really don’t ask for God to do God’s will, we tell God what we think ought to happen or how something should change. Instead of offering our time, talents and energy, we offer our “advisory prayer” and then sit back and wait for God to do what we want. The reality is that much of what happens in the church and in the world, in the name of Christianity, happens through people. I read something not long ago where a writer was dealing with this same issue and he said he decided to wake up each morning with a prayer that said, “God, what do you want me to do for you today?” He said like most of us, he had usually began his day “asking” something from God and so now he decided to “offer” himself as a servant for God. It is something to think about isn’t it?

See you Sunday,

Alan
**In Church This Week**

**As of September 4, 2018**

**Disciples for Sunday, September 9, 2018**

- **Outside Greeter:** Shelby Seegers
- **Van Drivers:** Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
- **Welcome Center:** 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Barb Swinburne
- **Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Barb & Doug Bedient; 10:45 Lynette & Barry Beaupre
- **Children’s Church:** K-5: Jennifer Woolridge; **Youth Helpers:** Julia Oberg & Lily Bishop
- **Children’s Church Registration:** Barb Swinburne
- **September Nametags:** Sally Washburn
- **Parish Nurses:** 9:15 Carol White; 11:45 Dana Oberg

**Please Welcome:** Our new Associate Pastor Yiwen Bi is officially on board. Please stop by and make him feel welcome. His e-mail address is yiwenb@fumc-cdale.org.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Lesley and Daniel Lundberg on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Rose, August 28th, 2018, in Denver, Colorado. Proud grandparent is Julia Morrill of Murphysboro.

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

**ATTENTION METHODIST MEN!**

Join the "Men's Group," led by Reverend John Sims, on Tuesday mornings in the church Parlor (Heritage Room). The group meets from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. for conversation, sharing, and coffee and donuts. Men of all ages and faith are welcome.

*Join us and invite a friend.*

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**September 30, 2018**

Will be our next Fifth Sunday Loose Change Offering.

Your contributions will be donated to the Newman Center for its 2018 Thanksgiving day community meal.

Thank you for your support,
Missions Committee
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Priscilla Circle</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Church Women United</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Morning Circle</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Room, Co-Hostesses - Betty Hamilton and Evelyn Legendre</td>
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</tbody>
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Specialized Training for Adult Rehabilitation (START) will celebrate 50 years of service with a gala event on **October 12, 2018**. A dinner, silent auction and live DJ will be included.

The event will be held at the Garden Grove Event Center, 1215 East Walnut, Carbondale. Tickets are available for purchase for $50 per person.

For information contact START at 618-687-2378. Reservations can be mailed to START, 20 North 13th Street, PO Box 938, Murphysboro, IL 62966. Make checks payable to START.

The deadline for reservations is **September 28, 2018**.
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: “Jesus’ Family”
September 9 Sunday School—“Jesus and His Parents”

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. Join us for a new study: “Far of the Other” by William H. Willimon. 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 will resume September 12, 2018, in Room 308.

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.