Dear Friends,

For the next three Sundays we will be collecting money for flood buckets. As you know, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center prepares flood buckets that are given to flood victims when they begin to move back into their homes, once the flood waters recede. There is a list of specific items that go into the five gallon flood buckets, because space is limited and the desire is to provide the items that will be particularly useful in cleaning up a home after a flood. Last year we collected money for flood buckets because the items needed could be purchased in bulk at a lower cost by the Distribution Center. Last year you gave enough for over 100 buckets. This year we will, again, collect money for flood buckets. Because of Hurricane Harvey, there is a great need for these flood buckets in Texas, as well as other places where buckets have gone to, or will need to go to. There will be a bucket in the Narthex of the church for the next three weeks, and I know you will be generous for these people in need.

Another reminder is that this Sunday, September 10 at 12:00 noon at Turley Park, is our “Fall Kick-Off All-Church Picnic.” The meat and drinks will be furnished, and you are asked to bring a covered dish to feed 10-12 people to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to help us know how many hotdogs and hamburgers to prepare. You can also call the church office at 457-2416 if you plan to attend. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

I hope you had the chance to enjoy the Labor Day weekend in some way or another. It is always good to have a chance to rest our bodies and spirits, and Labor Day is always a good time to do that, as summer begins to come to an end and fall begins. The change of seasons always reminds me of how life has a way of going through changes. Sometimes those changes are “good” and sometimes “bad,” or at least as we see it. The important thing about our faith is that in the midst of changes, “bad or good,” God walks with us. We know that what we see as “bad” can turn out better than we thought, and that the “good” changes give us a sense of balance, knowing there is hope on the other side. We live, knowing that change will come, but God doesn’t leave us without guidance and hope in the midst of those changes. We sometimes may become weary and disheartened, but God never pulls away from us, even when we may have created the atmosphere for a “bad” change to happen in our lives. God, in God’s love, stands by us and will support and guide us through whatever comes our way. Take some time this week to just reflect on those life circumstances, when you saw God at work, whether the experience was “bad or good.”

See you Sunday,

Alan
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
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.

11 Monday
10:00 Outreach to Oak Grove
6:30 Good News, Atrium
7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

12 Tuesday
8:30 Men's Group, Heritage
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
5:00 Staff Parish, Room 308
7:15 Arrow Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

13 Wednesday
10:00 Children's Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children's Library, Room 413
1:30 Wednesday Women's Fellowship, Heritage Rm
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 Chime Choir
6:00 Scouts Committee, Room 410

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

15 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

16 Saturday
3:00 Jessica Steams Wedding

17 Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service and Children's Church
3:00 Anita Hutton & Friends, 25th Anniversary Concert, Sanctuary

PRIMETIMERS LUNCHEON & PROGRAM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall $8:00 Luncheon
MUSICAL PROGRAM FEATURING KATHY HOLLISTER & ANDREA STUDER
“A Little Celtic, a Little Bluegrass, and a Little Folk”

PARISH pulse
As of September 5, 2017

In Sympathy: Sympathy to the family and friends of Charlotte “Chuckie” Powell, who passed away on August 30, 2017.
In Sympathy: Sympathy to Larry & Debbie Richison, family and friends, on the death of his mother, Anna Mae Richison, who passed away on September 2, 2017.
Health Concern: Gerald Fink is in Chateau Girardeau Rehab Center in Cape Girardeau, MO.
Plants Available: Help yourselves to plants in the two church garden beds along University. A plant restoration begins next week. If you would like to help, contact Jean Boehne, 549-1319.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY IN NURSERY - The needs of the children in the nursery vary each week and are unpredictable because of the number of children and their ages. At times, additional care is needed beyond what the staff can supply. You can help! Check in to the nursery before the church service and check out a pager. The pager will buzz if you’re needed. Return the pager to the nursery after the church service. If you have any questions, call or text Carol Cain at 618-967-5105.

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.

Disciples for Sunday, September 10, 2017
Outside Greeter: Gordon & Carol White
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Mary Lou Goodman
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Barb & Doug Bedient; 10:45 Bobbe & Joe Lenzini, Michelle & Mike Neill
Parish Nurses: 9:15 Carol White; 11:45 Bobbi Levelsimer
Nursery: - Info; - Youth
Children’s Church: K-2nd Jennifer Woolridge ; 3rd - 5th Rob & Linda Lucas
Children’s Church Registration: Doug & Amy Baker
September Nametags: Sally Washburn
On October 15, we join with people of faith across the country in praying for those who struggle with hunger and in rededicating ourselves to efforts that help end hunger. Our prayerful work to end hunger is a response to the Gospel’s invitation to take part in the banquet of God’s mercy and abundance that is ours through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 22:1-14)

Our prayers and actions are especially urgent at this time. South Sudan is suffering from a devastating famine, and famine threatens Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. In the United States, the president and Congress are making budget decisions that could make life even harder for the one in eight families struggling to get enough to eat.

In response to these urgent needs, FUMC will join with many other churches involved in Bread for the World. Working together, we can persuade our nation’s leaders to get our country and the world on track toward the goal of ending hunger by 2030.

Our faith is in Christ, who makes all things new, and we place our hope in God’s vision of a world without hunger.
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.