In Church This Sunday  
September 16, 2018

8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon:  "Have You Decided Yet?"  
Rev. Alan Rhein  

Scripture:  Mark 8: 27-38  

Anthem:  
8:15 Beautiful Savior  
Rachel Alessio, soprano  
10:45 Beautiful Savior  
Sanctuary Choir  

Hymns:  
157 Jesus Shall Reign  
145 Morning Has Broken  
424 Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone  
159 Lift High the Cross

Dear Friends,

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s most of you know, there will be a special Called Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, in St. Louis, February 23-26, 2019. The General Conference is the governing body of the United Methodist Church which meets every four years to establish what will be the plans for the church for the next four years. This Called Session is for the sole purpose of moving the denomination past its decades long struggle with issues related to human sexuality, particularly around the issue of homosexuality. Plans that have been proposed offer both a way to stay together as a denomination and ways to split. There are many people praying about this issue and I encourage you to do the same. There are currently three possible options for this called session of General Conference to deal with: the One Church Plan, the Traditional Plan, and the Connectional Conference Plan. There are positives and negatives about each of these plans. I won’t go into detail about the plans here because it would be difficult to cover all that needs to be covered. Instead, we will be offering here at the church four weeks of study on the plans by using a book entitled, “Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church”. This study will be designed to look at all three plans and clarify what those plans are and their potential impact on the Church.

The studies will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. The Tuesday meetings will meet on October 2, 16, 23 and November 6. The Wednesday evening meetings will be on October 3, 17, 24 and 31. This would be a great chance for you to find out about this important Called Session of our United Methodist Church. And again, it is important that we all pray about this important time in the life of the Church.

As you know, we have our new Associate Pastor, Yiwen Bi, as well as several new members. It is time for us to wear our name tags at worship on Sundays and let them know who we are. We should wear our name tags all of the time, but at least during this time of getting acquainted with the “new members” of our church family.

Fall is upon us and we have many other activities and events planned for the coming year. Be on the lookout for many opportunities for fellowship in the coming weeks and months.

See you Sunday,

Alan
ALL MEN TAKE NOTE!

If you enjoy coffee, donuts, and conversation, attend the "Men's Group" led by Reverend John Sims. Men of all ages are welcome every Tuesday morning from 8:30am - 9:30am in the church Parlor.

Invite a friend!

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

14 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

15 Saturday

16 Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship Service
After 10:45 Service—Music Committee, Rm 413

17 Monday
6:00 Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 Church Council

18 Tuesday
8:30 Men's Group, Heritage Room
9:00 NOT MEETING-Daniel Plan Essentials, Rm 403
10:00 UMW Morning Circle, Heritage Room
10:15 NOT MEETING-Golden Yoga, Room 404
5-6:30 Rotary Club, Heritage Room
7:00 Scout Eagle Board, Room 308

19 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appt. only), Rm. 308
10:00 Children's Story Time, Diane Neill
Dorsey Memorial Children's Library
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Room 418
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel

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

21 Friday
9:30 NOT MEETING-Golden Yoga, Room 404

22 Saturday
9-Noon UMW Cache River District Meeting
FUMC-DuQuoin

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

Save the Date: Join us at Hunans for Saturday Night Live, October 6, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Your hosts for the evening will be Sharon & Larry Meyer and Barb & Doug Bedient.
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”

**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 meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. Watch for updates.
- **Youth Group** will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Watch for updates.
- **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.

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**General Fund**

| Income   | $472,493.61 |
| Expenses | $493,995.26 |
| INDEBTEDNESS | $-0- |

**Building Fund**

| Income   | $216,393.53 |
| Expenses | $100,066.46 |

**Building Fund Balance**

$431,707.34

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**Faith Community Nurse News**

“My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.” Psalms 119:148

As the “carefree” days of summer come to a close, September brings more responsibilities and perhaps more worry about getting everything in order. Do you ever lie awake at night worrying, then find yourself suddenly awake, almost as if God himself has roused you? You can train yourself during these times to ask God what situation or person needs to be prayed for at that moment. Something or someone usually comes readily to mind. Lift up a short prayer and you will likely fall right back to sleep.

Instead of worrying, we can train ourselves to use those restless nighttime hours to focus on God’s promises to us in Jesus. It will take time, but those night hours can be precious times of communication with the God of the universe, who loves us and helps us deal with all of our concerns.

(Paraphrased from Spiritual Disciplines Devotional by Valerie E. Hess)