First Thoughts

It’s OK Chicken Little. The sky is NOT falling.

I recently heard Rick Richardson, Professor of Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College, talking about his new book, “You Found Me.” Dr. Richardson, whose work focuses on helping congregations turn outward, says that most of the congregations he works with have to overcome some false beliefs about our culture being unreceptive to faith.

Richardson hears influential church leaders repeating a set of myths, “People don’t trust the church. People distrust the politics of the church…. Millennials are leaving the church at an unprecedented rate, never to return.” Church people hear these things, he says, “and it starts to discourage us, depress us. And we catch what sociologists call Chicken Little Syndrome, which is a belief that because the sky is falling, we need to either panic, or else we might as well become passive because we’re powerless in the face of this shifting, resistant culture of the loss of our young people.”

So what is the truth? First, most of the people identified as having “left the church” were never active in a church to begin with. It’s just that people who used to say they were Christian don’t feel like they have to anymore. “And so what’s happened,” says Richardson, “is not actually a change in the level of committed people to Christian faith. What’s changed is that the nominal and cultural Christians no longer identify as Christians. And that’s not necessarily bad news….. Today, more and more, people who identify as Christian have a meaningful commitment to back that up.”

The other big myth is that people who say their religious preference is “none” are unreceptive to spiritual things. Richardson’s research sees three distinct groups within the “nones.” There are Atheists and Agnostics, but the majority (69%) are just “Nothing in Particular.” In fact, out of this group, 5% actually attend worship services every week, 20% pray every day, and 80% believe in God or a higher power. “So they’re not actually the completely secular irreligious people that we often think of when we hear the word “none.” The word none just means they’re not into any particular religious institutions or religious identification.”

One more often quoted myth says 98% of millennials leave the church never to come back. Richardson’s research challenges this, too. “Our research shows that of millennials between the ages of 18 and 30, emerging adults, about 54% of them either stay in church, or else come back to regular attendance in church. Another percentage comes back now and again to church, and only 20% in that age group left church and didn’t return at all by the time they got to 30…. So again, it’s not like we have this huge population of people that hate the church, and we have to become defensive…. They just need to be reached out to, loved well, and drawn back. If, two out of every three unchurched persons I talk to is basically going to be positive toward me, toward the church, toward Christian faith, that sets you up in a very different way for witness.”

Next week: recommendations for reaching unchurched millennials. Hint: Hospitality.

God Bless, Pastor Howard

*The interview was conducted for the Renegade Pastors’ Network. Quotes are taken from the transcript.
### In Church This Week

**Oct. 3 to Oct. 17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Priscilla Circle, Heritage Room</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>Chimes</td>
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<td>5:45</td>
<td>Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Education Committee</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Golden Yoga, Room 404 *</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Golden Yoga, Room 404 *</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>Saturday Night Live, Hosts: Doug &amp; Barb Bedient and Sharon &amp; Larry Meyer, Location: Hunan</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>Families In Progress Picnic, Little Grassy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Grateful Hearts, Room 308</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Men’s Group, Heritage Room</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Daniel Plan, Room 403-NOT MEETING</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>UMW Morning Circle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Golden Yoga, Room 404 *</td>
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<td>5:30-7</td>
<td>Rotary Club, Heritage Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Eagle Board, Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Scouts Boy Troop 66, Room 410</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Let’s Walk Campus Lake, Becker Pavillion (Last Day)</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Healing Touch (by appointment), Room 403</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>Handbells</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Grateful Hearts, Room 308</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Youth Group, TBD</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Chimes</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4:45</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**

October 5, 2019
5:30 p.m. at Hunan Restaurant

hosts:
Barb & Doug Bedient
Sharon & Larry Meyer

Boy Scouts to sell wreaths and popcorn after each Service.

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**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 20, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
CHURCH SANCTUARY

There is no Sunday School and this is the only service

**SHARING JESUS’ HEART**

**CELEBRATION BRUNCH**

OCTOBER 20, 2019 AT 11:30 A.M.
CIVIC CENTER

There is no charge for the brunch but sign-up is requested. Please use the form below and place in offering plate or return to the Church Office by October 15.

Please register me and my guests for the Celebration Brunch on October 20 at the Civic Center at 11:30 a.m.

**From July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019**

**Ethan Baker**
Library Fund
Elizabeth Matthews

**Harry Schulz, Jr.**
Library Fund
Greg & Linda Meredith
Betty Bishop

**Sue Hall**
Music Fund
Elizabeth Matthews

**Phyllis Joseph**
Building Fund
Doug & Barb Bedient
Steve & Pam Yarbrough

**Elizabeth Matthews**
General Memorials
Elizabeth Matthews

**Nelda Hinckley**
Music Fund
Anna Marie Burke

**Gordon & Carol White**
Ann Hutton

**Deichsel Family (by Mary D Bell)**
Elizabeth Matthews

**Harriet Simon**
Materials & Equip for Children
Harry Schulz, Jr.

**Elaine Crain, the Crain Family & Kirby Patterson**
Elizabeth Matthews

**Gail & Linda White**
Elizabeth Matthews
Disciples for Sunday, October 6, 2019, World Communion Sunday

Altar flowers are given by Julie Beck and Carol Mocaby in memory of Linda Walker.

Acolytes: Olivia Bishop, Madison Voss
Indoor Greeters: Sue Peterman, Anna Marie Smith
Liturgists: 8:15: Ted Pilger; 10:45: Michael Koch
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Joyce Crippen; 10:45: Ron Browning
October Ushers: John Williams, Captain; 8:15 Kathy Hollister, Joe Swindell, Dick Verduin; 10:45 Ed Tresnak, Krishna Balasubramanian, Mythali Rundblad, Bruce Wallace
October Nametags: Sally Washburn
October Communion Ushers: Karl Bartelsmeyer, Captain; George Everingham, Jan Waggoner

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Jean & Don Boehne; 10:45 Donna & Don Bryant
Outside Greeters: Mike & Joyce Vancil
Welcome Center: 8:15 Sara Hinde; 10:45: Sara Hinde
October Communion Committee: 8:15: Anita Hutton; 10:45: Setup & Clean Up: Anita Hutton

Disciples for Sunday, October 13, 2019

Altar flowers are given by Bobbe & Joe Lenzini in honor of Kelly Lenzini and Tevin Taylor’s Wedding.

Acolytes: Anne Marie Simonds, Margo Simonds
Indoor Greeters: Sam, Katie and Guy Indorante, Carolyn Gibson
Liturgists: 8:15 Dick Verduin; 10:45 Debbie Asaturian
Sound System Operators: 8:15 Steve Mitchell; 10:45: Kevan Mitchell
October Ushers: John Williams, Captain; 8:15 Kathy Hollister, Joe Swindell, Dick Verduin; 10:45 Ed Tresnak, Krishna Balasubramanian, Mythali Rundblad, Bruce Wallace
October Nametags: Sally Washburn

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Jan & Dick Verduin; 10:45 Lianne & John Watson
Outside Greeters: The Hinde Family
Van Driver: Dan Anderson, Ill
Welcome Center: 8:15 Jan Verduin; 10:45 Phil & Gail Gilbert
Children’s Church Registration: Sharon Sims
Children’s Church: Necia Jannings
Youth Helpers: Brenden & Rhys McNally
Parish Nurse: Betty Graig (9:15)

Volunteer Opportunity: A volunteer is needed to coordinate the Coffee Hosts for 10:45 a.m. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

2020 Flower Chart: Is ready for sign ups. It is in the same location—on the wall at the incline, leading to the church office. Thank you.

Call for Volunteers: We need volunteers to be Usher Captains for May/November 2019. Regular Ushers needed at 8:15 a.m. for August and June/December. Please call the Church Office to volunteer.

When should we have a thankful heart? (1 Thessalonians 5:18) ...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

FUMC STAFF
Howard White - Pastor
Yiwen Bi - Associate Pastor
Sharon Ranmar - Office Manager
Necia Jannings - Director of Christian Education
Anita Hutton - Organist & Parish Visitor
Robert Weiss - Music Director
Janet Earnest - Finance
Barbara Mueller - Office Assistant
Jeff Peterman - Custodian
Jack Peterman - Sunday Custodian
Sheli Peterman - Relief Custodian
Anne Krippenstapel - Nursery Worker
Jessie Wesselmann - Nursery Worker
Lia Driscoll - Nursery Worker

Follow our church on Instagram (FUMC Carbondale) for photos, events and memorable moments!
All Church Family Fun Day at Bandy’s Pumpkin Patch
Sunday, Oct. 13, 12:00 noon

Come to worship dressed for a day on the farm (hint...church t-shirts would be very appropriate), then come out to Bandy’s for lunch and an entire afternoon of exploring the corn maze, playing in the kids barn, a hayride, and lots of fellowship. Want to just hang out by the fire? Bring your bag chair.

SIGN UP IN THE ATRIUM BY OCT. 7

Mark Your Calendars: Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. worship

The children will be singing the anthem with the choir

Rehearsals during
Children’s Church each Sunday and at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20 in the Sanctuary

Pick up a practice CD in the atrium or at the Children’s Church desk

BOY SCOUT TROOP 66 CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, after both services

The wreath sale is the largest Troop fundraiser. The funds raised help pay for summer camp and other scouting events. Call Brian Gorecki at 534-9617 for more info.

A SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO BUY A WREATH WILL BE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

TROOP 66 POPCORN SALES are important to the Troop and its council, the Greater St. Louis Council, and allows boy scouting to exist.

STOP BY AND VISIT WITH US ON THE 13TH AND THE 27TH !!

ON SALE!!!!
CHURCH T-SHIRTS
Get yours for our fall activities.

Children sizes-$5.00
XS, SM, Med, LG

Adult sizes-$7.00
SM, LG, XL, XXL

Pumpkin Patch

Nut Sales Coming In November!
Our youth group’s annual nut fundraiser will begin Sunday, November 11/3. A great selection such as fancy mammoth pecan halves, deluxe mixed nuts, giant whole cashews, heart healthy nut mix, fruit & nut mix, dark chocolate almonds, dark chocolate cranberries.... All proceeds benefit the youth ASP trip in 2020. Thank you!

Thank you for your generous Fifth Sunday Loose Change donation.

The Offering from September 29th totaled $170.

This offering will be given to the I Can Read Program. The Program was founded in 1998 by the Attucks High School graduating class of 1948. Volunteers work with children individually, or in small groups to improve reading and public speaking skills.

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We hope your family can join us on Sunday, October 6th, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. for our Families in Progress Fall Picnic Event! Dress casually for the church service and then meet at Little Grassy Camp afterwards for food, fun & fellowship. It will be a great opportunity for our young FUMC families to get acquainted! Come out and enjoy:

- Grilled Burgers & Dogs
- Face & Pumpkin Painting (some pumpkins to be delivered later in the week to our church shut-ins)
- Games for all ages
- C.J. Nelson, "The Balloon Guy" will also be there!

If anyone has a pickup truck & trailer and would like to volunteer to do a hayride, that would be awesome! Also, if your kiddos would like a dress rehearsal for Halloween, feel free to have them wear their costumes.

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We also now have a group Facebook page. Just search FUMC Families in Progress to join!

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**SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Children's Opportunities, Sundays**

- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School** (K-5th grade) uses the Deep Blue from Cokesbury. Main Topic: “Community Foundations” - Oct. 6 Sunday School—“Call to Freedom”
- **Oct. 13 Sunday School—“The Exodus”**

- **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, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

- **9:30 a.m. Junior/Senior High Class** meets in Room 414 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today's youth.

**Adult Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

- **Searching for Happiness**—How Generosity, Faith, and Other Spiritual Habits Can Lead to a Full Life by Martin Thielen. The class will be led by Pastor Howard White and Leah Farrar-White. Meeting Dates: Sept. 15 to Nov. 10, Room 308.
- **Renew Class** - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. New study started September 22: Holy Spirit Here and Now by Trevor Hudson. They meet in the Chapel. Women of all ages are welcome.
- **The Electives Class** - Scripture studies following the lectionary led by Rev. John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

**Small Group Opportunities**

- **FUMCNext-Carbondale** meets in the Heritage Room. Help us explore ways we can share the love of Christ with all people? Come share your ideas. Looking forward to seeing you!
- **Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga Techniques** meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Rm 404, the Chapel.
- **Golden Yoga** meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Rm 404, the Chapel. A fee is charged for this class.
- **Grateful Hearts** is a group of women who meet to strengthen their faith through Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. They began the study Mountaintop Moments by Ed Robb on Wednesday, September 18th at 6 p.m. in room 308. All women are welcome.
- **Men’s Group** All men of the church are invited to coffee and refreshments on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. We discuss anything and everything from the perspective of our relationship with God.
- **The Daniel Plan Essentials** meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. They are studying the series The Science of Natural Healing. Everyone welcome.
- **Youth Group** meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Time and location to be determined each week.

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**Trivia Night**

**SATURDAY, 11/9 | 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

JOIN US AT CARBONDALE 1ST UMC
214 W MAIN STREET

100% OF THE DONATIONS GO TO YOUTH ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT

Contact church (618-457-2416, fumc@fumc-carbondale.org) to register by 11/1 or for any question

$15 per person or $100 per table of 8 people

Come to win 1st place prizes, 2nd place prizes, and door prizes.

This trivia night is an ASP fundraiser open to all in our church and in communities. Please help in spreading the news, joining the event, and/or inviting others to join us, particularly if you plan to go to ASP 2020. We also welcome donations of light refreshments (ex: popcorn) and drinks for the participants at the tables, candy bars as the 2nd-place prizes, and door prizes. Please contact Yiwen (yiwenb@fumc-carbondale.org). Thank you for your contribution.