Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday, October 28, is our Commitment Sunday. We will not have Sunday School and will have one service at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by a brunch at the Carbondale Civic Center immediately after the service.

Commitment Sunday is the time each year when we make our financial commitments for the coming year. In this case it is for 2019. We will have a time at the close of our service to bring our commitment cards forward and place them on the altar rail. I know that you have been praying and thinking about your commitment to the church for 2019. Your giving is what we base the budget of the church on each year. If you cannot be in the service Sunday, feel free to mail or drop off your commitment card to the church office.

As I shared this past Sunday, we want to encourage you to come to worship and attend the brunch even though you may not feel able to make a financial commitment. This worship and brunch is one of the few times a year that we all gather together for worship and fellowship. So, I hope that you will join us. If you didn’t sign up to be at the brunch last Sunday, just call the church office and let us know your plan to be there. This enables us to know how much food to prepare. The office phone number is 457-2416.

Each year I share with you that giving to the ministry and mission of the church is a part of who we are as Christians. The last two Sundays we have had persons share why they give to the church and I have shared messages on what giving means to our financial and spiritual well-being. We have looked at the book “Generosity” by Adam Hamilton and what generosity means as we live out our lives as faithful followers of Christ. Our giving is a private matter that each of us decides based on what we believe God has done in our lives through His generosity to us. We prayerfully commit what we think we are able to do based on God’s generosity. Our giving is a way of thanksgiving to God for all we know he has brought into our life because of his love for us.

This church is a generous church and your giving has always been an inspiration to me as your pastor. We have ministry that needs your prayerful financial support and I know you are willing to give to that ministry.

I look forward to our time this coming Sunday while sharing worship and brunch with you.

See you Sunday,

Alan
**Thank You:** We thank you for your kindness, support and caring concern over the past few years.
- The family of Rev. William R. Warner

**Call for Volunteers:** We need volunteers to be Usher Captains for November 2018, May/November 2019, March/September 2019. Regular Ushers needed on a continual basis. Call the office to volunteer.

**Save the Date:** 20th Anniversary Celebration of “I CAN READ” October 27th, 6 p.m. to midnight, Carbondale Elks, Cost is $50/person, contact Marilyn Tipton at (618) 559-3452.

**Save the Date:** PrimeTimers Luncheon and Program, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018, 11:30 a.m., Lunch $8, Vicki Blair will bring a Saluki Dog.

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**2019 FLOWER CHART**

Our 2019 flower chart is ready for sign-ups. It is in the same location - on the wall at the incline, leading to the church office.

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**RED CROSS WANTS YOUR BLOOD**

**EVEN MORE THAN COUNT DRACULA!**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - 1:30 - 5:45 P.M. HERITAGE ROOM

**Sign Up Sheet is now available in the Narthex.**

Blood has a "shelf life" of 42 days. That means your donation on Monday, November 5, will be available to help save lives all the way through the Thanksgiving Holiday when supplies usually run low. Don't be scared. Plan to give. Many people will be Thankful you did!!!

Go to www.redcrossblood.org/rapid for the fastest donation experience possible!
DID YOU KNOW?

Gifts to the Salvation Army helped change lives right here in Southern Illinois in one year:

- Holiday assistance to 925 men, women and children;
- Provide rent and utility assistance to 399 households;
- Distribute 485 toys and gifts to people in our community who worried they’d be forgotten;
- Serve 1,962 households through its monthly food pantry to help decrease food insecurity;
- Supply clothing vouchers to 1,358 individuals.

Thank you for the support of our various campaigns. Our cooperation with these agencies help make a difference across our local area, the state, nation and world. Missions Committee

Thank you to all for helping with the coat drive. Also, a big thank you to all for generously giving your gently-used winter coats to help those in need.

Necia and The Education Committee

TRIP TO MMDC SCHEDULED:
The Midwest Missions Distribution Center Trip is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30th. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 6:30 AM and returning about 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet and required forms will be placed in the Narthex. Bring a lunch and wear closed toed shoes. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Mitchell. This is a fun and rewarding community volunteering opportunity.

FUMC Missions Committee

FUMC T-SHIRTS

NOW AVAILABLE in the NARTHEX

Child sizes—XS, S, M, L $8
Adult Sizes—S, M, L, XL, XXL $10

Proceeds go to the FUMC Sanctuary Choir for their trip to Carnegie Hall
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN

NOVEMBER 2018

| November 01 | Jill Misner          |
| November 02 | Sydney Davis         |
| November 03 | Sandy Gobert         |
| November 04 | Martha Campbell      |
| November 05 | Sharon Ramnar        |
| November 06 | Barry Beaupre        |
| November 07 | Ron Browning         |
| November 08 | Debi Robinson        |
| November 09 | Karl Bartelsmeyer    |
| November 10 | Lavina Thomas        |
| November 11 | Emma Jean Durr       |
| November 12 | Paul Sorgen          |
| November 13 | Paul Cline           |
| November 14 | C. W. Thomas III     |
| November 15 | Anita Hutton         |
| November 16 | William Bailey       |
| November 17 | Pat Cuenet           |
| November 18 | John Jennings        |
| November 19 | Barbara Shiplett     |
| November 20 | Neil Voss            |
| November 21 | Al Morgan            |
| November 22 | Chuck Walker         |
| November 23 | Bobbi Levelsmier     |
| November 24 | Alexa Small          |
| November 25 | Kay Hickey           |
| November 26 | Donna Butler         |
| November 27 | Kathy Harrison       |
| November 28 | Larry Smith          |
| November 29 | Marsha Easterly-Seibert |
| November 30 | Ken Buzbee           |

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: “We Are Family”—October 28 Sunday School—“Sisters”

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.

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 - On Sunday, September 30th, the Investors class will begin the stewardship study, ENOUGH, by Adam Hamilton. Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They meet in Room 404, the Chapel. Everyone 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

The Daniel Plan Essentials meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Everyone welcome. Daniel Plan will not meet in October.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They will be starting a study of Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado on September 19.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.

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.

Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga Techniques meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 404, the Chapel.

Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Room 404, the Chapel.

Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey
**Spirit of Christmas**

is an anonymous gift program. The gifts you will be giving may be the only ones the person will receive. We ask that you include only new, nicely wrapped items. It is not necessary to purchase every item requested. With your help, over 1,000 Jackson County residents will have a more joyous Christmas.

**Gifts are due Sunday, November 25**

You will have an opportunity to select gift requests that you fulfill, along with additional instructions, before and after church services on October 28 and November 4.

For more information on this project, contact FUMC Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker at 618-457-0630.

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**PLACE YOUR POINSETTIA ORDER NOW!**

The tradition of decorating the Church with poinsettias continues. You may either order a poinsettia through the church or make your own arrangements. If ordering through the church, please order early to insure the size and color you want! Orders and all memorial information must be in the Church Office by 12:00 Noon, Thursday, November 8, 2018.

If making your own arrangements, please wrap the pot in foil and bring the plant in during office hours on December 11, 12 or by noon on the 13th.

For further information, contact Rhonda Kelley (618) 534–6590.

**Name:** ________________ **Daytime Phone:** ________________

I will be bringing a poinsettia ________

I would like to order the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular (6&quot;)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large (8&quot;)</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red ________ White ________ Pink ________

Enclosed is cash or a check made out to First UMC in the amount of $________

_____ in honor of ____________________________________________

_____ in memory of __________________________________________

_____ other (please state) _____________________________________

_____ I will pick up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24th.

Additional forms may be found in the Church Office, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, or at www.fumc-cdale.org/Resources/Current Forms

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**Boy Scout Troop 7077**

**Carterville, Illinois**

Leaders and Darwin Michael Anthony Koch’s Parents

Invite you to His Eagle ceremony

**When:** November 4, 2018 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** First United Methodist Church

Please Signup by Oct. 30th if you would like to attend.

Reception to follow ceremony.