Dear Friends,

As I sit in my office this Monday morning, the echoes of the shooting tragedy that took place in the little town of Sutherland Springs, Texas is on my mind. This little Baptist Church has experienced the kind of tragedy that cannot be described in any other way than horrific. As I watched the news last night I saw one pastor, from another church nearby, say that he would know all of the people who died during that service. That is the way small towns are, isn’t it? If you lived in a small town, as I did growing up, you know that when a tragedy happens, such as a car accident, everybody hurts over the loss. The person who died may not be related to you, but they are still a part of your “family.” The hurt is real and your life is forever changed. That is what I think about this small town in Texas. Those people will never be the same, just because someone decided to take the lives of adults and children, for no apparent reason.

Of course, we have had a lot of this kind of thing lately and nothing can make sense out of it. Our hearts ache for those affected and we lift them up in prayer. It is easy to just “pass this off” as something that happens to someone else, but I would imagine those on Sunday thought the same thing. None of us are immune from this kind of pain and hurt. We never know when we might be involved in some kind of loss in an accident, sudden death, or, heaven forbid, a shooting. This is the kind of situation that causes us to stop and think about what we have in our lives that is meaningful to us. We all have things that we cherish and it usually is related to our relationships with other people around us. Friendships, family, and just those we know in a casual sense, are ones we cherish. We think about what we have heard from time to time, and maybe even say ourselves, “Don’t take those you love and care about for granted.” It is true isn’t it? It takes some incident like Sunday’s shooting to remind us of that.

I know that what I have shared is “old stuff” and is nothing new or earth shattering, but we (or at least I) need to be reminded. Over the years, the churches I have served have always found a way to pull together for someone experiencing a painful time in life. Sometimes that situation might have been prevented with a little more care by someone who is hurting or by someone else who caused the hurt. Either way, the hurt is still there. These are the times when we can really see the “church” be the “church.” We often seem to find the time and energy to assist someone going through pain when we hadn’t taken time for that person before. And, we often forget about the differences we may have had with a person when they hurt.

I think these are times when the Church is at its best and makes me think that this is a time when we let people see what the love of Christ really is. All of the “stuff” we let get in the way of our witness for Christ is put aside and we just love. Maybe it is the time to just get rid of the “stuff” that gets in the way, altogether. What do you think?

See you Sunday,

Alan
**In Church This Week**

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

**Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 1:00 Nichole Mize Wedding

**Sunday**
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 Worship Service and Children’s Church

**Monday**
- Veterans Day Holiday

**Tuesday**
- 8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
- 10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Wednesday**
- 10:00 Children’s Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
- 4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
- 6:00 Chime Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 409
- 6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308

**Thursday**
- 5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404
- 6:00 Education Committee, Heritage Room
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsals, Sanctuary

**Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 5:30 Parents Night Out Movie Night, 4 yr-5th gr, Fellowship Hall

**Saturday**
- 10:00 Children’s Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
- 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 Confirmation Meeting, Room 403
- 10:45 Worship Service and Children’s Church

**COFFEE HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Volunteers are needed to fill coffee host positions in 2018 on April 8, May 6, September 30, and December 30. If you can help, please contact the Church office at 457-2416.

**PARISH pulse**
As of November 7, 2017

**In Sympathy:** Sympathy to Jane Robertson and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Ken Becker, who passed away on October 25, 2017.

**Thank you:** Priscilla Circle thanks all those who participated in Monday’s Red Cross Blood drive. We had 26 donors and successfully collected 28 units! We exceeded our goal of 22 units.

**Thank you:** “Thank you to everyone for your thoughtful prayers, concerns, and cards.” Paulette Milroy

**Thank you:** Thank you for 5th Sunday Hurricane Relief Offertory on October 29 in the amount of $120.

**CALENDAR EVENT REMINDER for PRIMETIMERS**
There will be no PrimeTimers in November.

**Join us in December for PRIMETIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & PROGRAM**
Thursday, December 7, 2017 • 11:30 a.m.

**Lunch $8.00**

**Holiday Program presented by the Show Choir of Carbondale Jr. High**
Led by Vocal Music Teacher, Jessica Murphy

**2017 ADVENT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

**Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey Through the Gospels)**
by Magrey R. deVega

The Christmas story we know so well is really a compilation of accounts found in each of the Gospels. *Awaiting the Already* takes us on a tour through the Gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and helps us to recognize that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. Each chapter offers questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week. Study books will be available soon.

**Electives Class** joins Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room; **Investors Class** meets in the Chapel; **Renew Class** participates in the study in their classroom, Room 308

**Disciples for Sunday, November 12, 2017**

**Outside Greeter:** Don Frey
**Van Drivers:** John Graig, Brian Gorecki
**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Sara Hinde
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Deanna & Ron Diet; 10:45 Mari Ann & Jim Oberg
**Parish Nurses:** 9:15 Sharon Meyer; 11:45 Bobbi Levelsimer
**Nursery:** Heather Criswell - Info: Abby Koch - Youth
**Children’s Church:** K-2nd Tabitha Koch; 3rd - 5th Claire Beaupre/Joan Hart
**Children’s Church Registration:** George & Shirley Everingham
**November Name tags:** Betty Graig
**YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT**

**AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017**

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**UMW November Events**

**Wednesday 8**  
Women’s Wednesday Fellowship, 1:30 p.m.,  
Heritage Room

**Thursday 21**  
Morning Circle, 9:30 a.m.  
Hostess: Mary Chew, Breakfast at Sunny Street Café,  
Presentation by Tom Byford, **Good Thinking - Good Living**

**THE POSHARD FOUNDATION** announces its 2017 Fall Campaign. Its annual brunch and auction will not be held this year, but the need for funds for abused children in southern Illinois remain. Contributions to the Foundation come only from friends - no government funds at all. Your donation goes directly to the children and is tax-deductible, as the Foundation is a 501c3 organization. Donations can be sent to The Poshard Foundation, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Drive, Carterville, IL 62918.

**THE WESLEY VILLAGE** at Macomb announces a dream to create smaller ‘households’ of residents throughout its health care, rehab, and memory care units. This reduces the number of residents, in each unit, to approximately 14-22. Smaller groups will help simulate a home that will be familiar and comfortable for the residents. Watch for ‘The Pursuit of Home’ on the bulletin boards for more information. Donations can be sent to Kassie Courson, Wesley Village, 1200 E. Grant St., Macomb, IL 61455-9940.

**“Dude, You Hear What I Hear?” at the**  
**Around the Table Carol Sing**

**Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.**

BRING A PLATE OF COOKIES TO SHARE  
AND PLAN TO JOIN US

Invite your family and friends to join in the festivities as we sing in the blessed season, share some cookies, a cup of hot chocolate or coffee, and enjoy, as the children present the true meaning of Christmas.

The children will be singing a few of the songs at the beginning of Children’s Church each week during November. Pick up a practice CD.

There are a lot of parts for angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and even a few reindeer. If Necia has not spoken with you or your child about taking part in this year’s program, please contact her at neciaj@fumc-cdale.org

**REHEARSAL** (Preschool - 5th grade) is Sunday, December 3, in Fellowship Hall during the 10:45 a.m. worship

Parents and children are invited to join us

**Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library**

Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught us to live and love.
**POINSETTIA ORDER TIME IS HERE - 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, Monday, December 4, 2017.** 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 Claudia Broom (457-4855).

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**Name: __________________________ Daytime Phone: ____________**

I will be bringing a poinsettia ______

I would like to order the following:

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<th>Price</th>
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</table>

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 Sunday, December 24th.

Additional forms may be found in the Church Office, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, or at www.fumcdale.org/Resources/CurrentForms

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**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.

**November Children’s Church** -

**Anchor Point**: We can ask God for what we need.

Bible Verse: God gave Solomon wisdom and very great understanding. (I Kings 4:29)

**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. They are beginning a new study, "All the Places to Go!" by John Ortberg. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404. Everyone welcome!

**The Electives Class** - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. Join us!

**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** will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308 soon. Watch for updates.

**Youth Group** meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

**2017 Advent Bible Study**

**Beginning Sunday, November 26, 9:30 a.m.**

Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey Through the Gospels) by Magrey R. deVega.

**Electives Class** - joins Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room.

**Renew Class** - participates in the study in their classroom, Room 308.

**Investors Class** - meets in the Chapel.