Dear Friends,

As I have mentioned before, I grew up in the church. We were the kind of people that went to church whenever the doors were opened. I can’t remember not going to church. To this day most of the friends I have were persons in my local church. Most of my family life revolved around the church and its activities. Any time a family activity was planned it was planned around what was going on at church. This applied to my extended family as well as my immediate family. There are at least four in our family that entered either pastoral ministry or mission work when they reached adulthood.

Ruth Hefferman sent me a quote recently from a book Reflections by Daniel A. Poling entitled, “Why I Should Belong to Church.” I found it reflects how I was raised and my feelings about the church today. I hope you find it meaningful as well:

“I should belong to the church because I ought to be better than I am. Henry Ward Beecher once said: “The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.” I should belong to the church because of what I can give to it and do through it as well as because of what I may get out of it. The church is not a dormitory for sleepers; it is an institution of workers. It is not only a rest camp; it is a front-line trench.

I should belong to the church because every man (and woman) should pay his (or her) debts and do his (or her) share toward discharging the obligation of society. I should belong to the church because of memories—memories of things I can never forget, memories of faces that will never fade, memories of vows that are the glory of youth.

I should belong to the church because of hope—hope that lives when promises are dead, hope that paves the way for progress, hope that visions peace and social justice, hope for all time to come—and hope for eternity, the great hope that casts anchor behind Jesus Christ.” I want to thank Ruth for sharing this with me.

I hope you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving and I’ll see you in church.

Sincerely,

Alan
28 Wednesday-cont.
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Rm 418
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Rm. 308
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel
29 Thursday
Noon UMW, Priscilla Circle Annual Potluck w/ Beary Christmas Tree Set Up
4:50 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
30 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Rm. 404
1 Saturday
2 Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Advent Study with Investors Class, Chapel
10:45 Worship Service
10:45 Youth Super Church, Chapel
Youth Group Nut Sales after both services
26 Monday
6:00 Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 Church Council
27 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan Essentials, Rm 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Rm. 404
28 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm 410
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill
Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Youth Group Nut Sales after both services
GREETER’S UPDATE...Could you give us a hand?
A welcoming handshake is often the first impression we make as a warm and friendly church.
If you would like to be added to the 2019 greeters’ list for the 10:45 service, please contact Evelyn Bailey at 618-697-4038 or baileysre@gmail.com. In a January mailing, you will be assigned one Sunday in 2019 to greet. If you are unavailable that Sunday, you may trade with another greeter. If you are unable to stand, please ask the ushers for a chair. If you are a choir member, you will be given a choir break week. Thank you for your willingness to brighten someone’s day!

PARISH pulse
As of November 21, 2018

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Meg Buser, & family & friends, on the death of her husband, Bob, who passed away on November 13, 2018.

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. Thank you.

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

Church Directories: Directories are available in the Church Office. Cost is $8 a copy.

Altar Flowers for December 30: Can you help beautify the Sanctuary on December 30 with altar flowers? If you can, please contact the Church Office at 457-2416. Altar flowers are only $49.00. Thank you.

Calendar Dates for 2019: Please come in to the Church Office and write in your church-related events held in January 2019 on the Office Calendar as soon as possible.

Black Coat Mix Up: If you wore a lady’s black dress coat last Sunday the 18th, please check to make sure it is yours. Some of the coats have been returned to their owners, but Carol Cain (618-967-5105) is still missing hers.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6
11:30 A.M. LUNCHEON & PROGRAM HERITAGE ROOM ($8 LUNCH)
Holiday Program presented by Ed and Kara Benyas

Disciples for Sunday, November 25, 2018
Welcome Center: 8:15 Judy Dillinger; 10:45 Helen Deniston
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Debbie & Armen Asaturian
Outside Greeters: Ed Dillinger; 10:45 Deb & Armen Asaturian
Children’s Church: K-5: Sam Indorante; Carolyn Gibson Youth Helpers: Katie and Guy Indorante
Parish Nurses: 9:15 Sharon Meyer; 11:45 Dana Oberg

SUPERCHURCH
Nov. 25 10:45am
1st UMC Carbondale
618-457-2416

For more information on this project, contact UMC Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker at 618-457-0830.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
Gifts are due BY Sunday, November 25

For more information on this project, contact FUMC Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker at 618-457-0830.
Advent A to Z
Pick up a Children’s Advent Prayer book and an A to Z Advent chain to make and add to each day of Advent as the children pray their way through the alphabet this Advent Season.

Also pick up a copy of the daily devotional “Taste and See” offering daily meditations as well as suggestions for family activities to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. All available in the narthex.

2018 Advent Devotional and Study

Taste & See Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas By Jan Johnson

In this Daily Advent Devotional and Study, the author “invites you to become a part of the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child…to live inside the story for a while, exploring it from the perspectives of its central figures.” Step into the Christmas story and experience it in a new way each day of Advent through daily devotions, thought provoking questions, historical background information, and quiet prayer time. Suggestions for family time and activities are included in the back of the book. Books are available in the narthex.

Join a small group on Wednesday mornings, beginning Nov. 28, at 10:00 a.m. (Room 410) led by Pastor Alan or on Sundays, beginning Dec. 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Renew Class (Room 402) and Sunday, Nov. 25 in the Investors Class (Chapel). Sign up sheet for Wednesday mornings is in the narthex.

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”
The children will be singing a version of “Go Tell It On the Mountain”, arranged by Dennis and Nan Allen, at the program on Dec. 2. We will be practicing the song during Children’s Church in November. Pick up a CD or on youtube search: “Go Tell It On the Mountain” Riverpointe Church kids choir

“Not Another Christmas Program” at the “Not-Around the Table” Carol Sing
December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Bring a plate of cookies to share and join us. Invite your family and friends to join in the festivities as we sing in the blessed season, share some cookies, and enjoy as the children present...

“Not Another Christmas Program”

Due to construction, the program will be in the sanctuary.
The children will be rehearsing songs at the beginning of Children’s Church each week during November.

Pick up a practice CD. There are a lot of parts in the program. 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 2, in Room 410/411 during 10:45 a.m. worship

MARCH TO THE MANGER • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

The children will be bringing unwrapped gifts to be presented at March to the Manger on Sunday, Dec. 9, during both services. These gifts will be taken to Jesús es el Señor, the Hispanic Ministry in Cobden, for distribution to children in their community. Please bring your unwrapped gifts and leave them at the manger during either service.

NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE:
Toy cars & trucks
Dolls
Toy dishes
Soccer balls
Basketballs
Footballs
Educational toys, puzzles and games
Christian children’s books
Christian music CD’s
Christian DVD’s
Toddler Toys
Building blocks
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: “Different Kinds of Family” — November 25 Sunday School—”Esther and Mordecai”

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—Advent Devotional and Study, Taste & See Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. Classes will start on December 2nd in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.
The Investors Class—Advent Devotional and Study, Taste & See Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. Classes will start on November 25 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.

Young Volunteers
Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They are studying Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado.

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.

All are welcome to enjoy this free delicious Thanksgiving meal of turkey, traditional holiday sides and desserts!

THURSDAY, NOV. 22—NOON—2 P.M.
At 715 S. Washington Street in Carbondale
Between the SIU Rec Center and the train tracks

To volunteer, make a donation, or have a meal delivered, please call 618-529-3311 by 4 p.m. Wednesday, November 21.

Newman Catholic Student Center has worked for the past 49 years to serve a Thanksgiving meal in Carbondale. They will probably serve about 800 meals to those in need this year if the averages of previous years are a guide. The meal will be served from Noon—2:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Volunteers are needed also.
Volunteers will be working from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with food preparation and then cleanup. Pick a time when you can help and call the phone number below.
Help is needed in several areas. Publicize the meal by word of mouth. Donate food items (Only store bought or commercially prepared items can be accepted). Support the meal with a financial contribution. To donate, volunteer, or have a meal delivered, please call 618-529-3311 by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Missions Committee!

Sponsored by the Newman Catholic Student Center, The Clinton County Knights of Columbus, area churches, businesses and generous individuals.

IGRC scholarship application process to open December 1
The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for undergraduate students during 2019-2020 school year. Applications will be accepted starting Dec. 1. Please apply online at www.wesleyfoundationsofillinois.org/scholarships/.
Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college or university that the student will be attending during the 2019-2020 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of $500.
Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2019. If you have any questions, contact Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org or Amy Shreve @ ashreve@igrc.org.

Please note: There is no way to save this application in process. Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to review or edit it. It is recommended that you review the entire application process before beginning.
Be sure to wish these FUMC members and friends a very Happy Birthday for the month of December 2018

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The 2018 Holiday Activity and Worship Schedule & 2018 Advent Season Activities Schedule will be inserted in the Sunday, Nov. 25 bulletins, mailed with the Nov. 25 Asburians, attached to the e-mailed Nov. 25 Asburians and are also located on the website under the November 25 Asburian link as separate documents. Watch the Website link and future Bulletins/Asburians for updates to the schedules.