Our Mission Statement: “Called together by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim God’s presence and love in the world through prayer, worship, education and service. We invite children, youth, and adults to become disciples of Jesus Christ, live fully in the Holy Spirit, and embrace God’s love.”

Newsletter of:

The First United Methodist Church
214 W. Main St.
Carbondale, IL 62901

IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2017

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

Sermon: “If We Had Only Known”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Anthem: 8:15 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Allison Spiller, soloist
10:45 Rejoice, the Lord is King
Sanctuary Choir

Hymns: 61 Come, Thou Almighty King
402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
430 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
603 Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

Altbuerian

Altar flowers this week are given by Conrad & Nelda Hinckley, in memory of their daughter, Galen.

Indoor Greeters: JoVonna Noble

Acolytes: 10:45 Paige Hefferman, Timothy Young

Sound System Operators:
8:15 Joyce Crippen; 10:45 Ron Browning

Liturgists: 8:15 John Phelps; 10:45 Linda White

November Ushers:
8:15 Mike Durr, Joyce & Mike Vancil
10:45 Mary Beth Aguilar, Wilma Davis, Phil Gilbert

Musings

Dear Friends,

This is the week of Thanksgiving and a time for us to focus on what we are thankful for. I can remember being in Sunday school and having my teacher ask us to say what we were thankful for. And then I would get home and sometimes my mother or grandmother would ask me, as we sat at the table for Thanksgiving dinner, to tell something we are thankful for. Boy, as a youngster, I would moan thinking, “Oh, no, here we go again, and the food is getting cold.” As an adult, when leading classes or groups, I would often ask the same question at this time of year. I am sure they felt as I felt about that question, but I would ask it anyway. It really is a valid question, isn’t it? How often do we sit down and just think of what we are thankful for? We are busy people, with many important things to do and places to go, and it is hard to take the time for such “trivial” matters. But it really isn’t that “trivial,” is it?

We do have much to be thankful for and we need to acknowledge it. Why? Well, first of all, we can easily take things for granted and not use them wisely, if we don’t remind ourselves how precious they are. For example, just think about all the parts of the world without clean drinking water. Focusing on what we have to be thankful for can also help us in those times when we begin to feel sorry for ourselves. Maybe the aches and pains of getting older begin to be a part of our everyday life (which I attest to) and we cannot do the things we used to do and liked to do because muscles and joints just don’t bend and move as they used to. As an old saying goes, “when I bend down to tie my shoes, I look and see what else I can do while I am down there.” It isn’t really that bad for me, but it “ain’t” what it used to be.

And there are other things in life that can cause us much frustration, and it is easy to focus on those things while becoming “sour” on life in general. But, when we stop and focus our attention on what we have to be thankful for, we begin to see that there is much more “good” in our lives than “bad.” We realize, even if the bones and muscles are not what they used to be, we can still get around, we still have friends and family around us, we still have the church and our faith, and we are still breathing. I have even sat down and made lists, when I begin to feel sorrow for myself. I get out a piece of paper and write down all of the things that I feel are not what I want them to be, or what I feel is a hardship for me. Then, I make a list of what I have to be thankful for. Invariably what happens, is that my “thankful” list always exceeds my “self-pity” list. After that little exercise, I pause and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God and ask forgiveness for my “pity-party.”

So, I ask you, that question: “What do you have to be thankful for?” Sorry, I just couldn’t resist asking.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

See you Sunday.

Alan
In Church This Week

**December**

**1 Friday**
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:00 St Audubon Society, Fellowship Hall

**2 Saturday**
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages

**2 Sunday**
First Sunday of Advent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages

**2 Advent Bible Study**:
- Electives Class meets with Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room;
- Investors meet in the Chapel (Rm. 404);
- Renew Class meets in Rm. 308.

**3 Sunday**
10:45 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages

**4 First Sunday of Advent**
8:15 Worship Service
10:45 Worship Service and Children’s Church

**5 Thursday**
9:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Room 404
6:00 Chime Choir Rehearsal

**6 Friday**
9:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:45 Youth Super Church, Chapel

**7 Thursday**
9:30 Formation of Advent Wreath, Heritage Rm.
6:00 Around the Table Carol Sing and Children’s Program, Fellowship Hall

The **Boy Scouts** will be collecting old/tattered flags for an upcoming Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Please bring your old or tattered flags to the church office by December 10th so that they may be included in this ceremony.

Thank you, Joe Hudgins

**2017 Advent Bible Study Classes Begin This Sunday, November 26**

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

Electives class joins Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room;
Investors meet in the Chapel. Renew class participates

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**Parish Pulse**
As of November 21, 2017

**Congratulations:** Della Fulk is pleased to announce the birth of her second grandson, Hudson Lee Hoffman, on November 6, 2017. Hudson is the son of Ben and Kathleen Hoffman and brother to Lincoln Patrick Hoffman, all of Kingwood, Texas.

**Save the Date:** On December 15, Families in Progress will continue the Christmas tradition of going *Christmas Caroling*. Meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. We will load the bus and set out for our shut-in destinations. Afterwards, we will have dinner together at IV’s. This Christmas event is in honor of memory of Normagene Warner, retired pastor Bill Warner’s beloved wife. Please RSVP so we have a headcount.

**Poinsettia orders and memorial information are due Monday, December 4, 2017.** If you haven’t ordered yet, Poinsettia Order Forms are available at the Welcome Center or on our website: www.fumc-cdale.org. Go to Resources, and click on Current Forms.

**Soup Suppers**

**Invitation**

We invite you to enjoy a warm bowl of soup and/or chili and fellowship after the special music of the Vesper services. Soup/chili supper will be hosted after two of the Vesper services. The **Investors** Sunday school class will host a soup supper on December 10th. The **Grateful Hearts** small group and Renew Sunday school class will host a soup supper on December 17th. The suppers start at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of each Music Vesper service on those dates.

Instead of using tickets, separate sign-up sheets for both suppers will be available in Fellowship Hall. Payment is made at the door in Fellowship Hall upon arrival for each soup supper.

**Disciples for Sunday, November 26**

Outside Greeters: Sara, John, Carlisle and Cayden Hinde
Van Drivers: John Graig and Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Deanna Diel; 10:45 Helen Deniston
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Joan Hart and Carol Cain
Parish Nurses: 8:15 Betty Graig; 11:45 Dana Oberg
Children’s Church: K-2nd: Necia Jannings; 3rd-5th: Necia Jannings
Children’s Church Registration: Barb Swinburne
November Nametags: Betty Graig
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.

“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 bringing unwrapped gifts to be presented at March to the Manger on Sunday, Dec. 10, 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.

Have you heard about Giving Tuesday?
It’s the Holiday Season and all the stores want you to BUY, BUY, BUY. After feasting on Turkey and all the trimming on Thursday, November 23, your first chance for deals is Black Friday. Then we have Small Business Saturday. You can rest on Sunday and then get geared up for Cyber Monday. Are you tired of all the push to BUY?

Giving Tuesday began in 2012 and started at the 92nd Street Y in New York. Since its inaugural year, Giving Tuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy.
You are encouraged to participate in Giving Tuesday. Give locally of your time, your talents, your money. Give nationally or internationally. Make it a family event. Do something small for your neighbor or do something big for many people.
Want more information? You can visit these websites for more ideas:
https://www.givingtuesday.org
Opportunities specifically for the United Methodist Church can be found here:
https://www.umcmission.org/giving
Thank you for thinking about Giving on Tuesday, November 28, 2017!
Be sure to wish these FUMC members and friends a very Happy Birthday for the month of DECEMBER, 2017

December 2  Robert Reid  December 19  Jeff Peterman
December 3  Mike McNally  Brenda Keller
Christopher Butts  Rusty Rice
Lily Bishop

December 4  Paul McRoy  December 20  Kristin Shelby
Dennis Leitner  Tanna Morgan
Misty Wright  Steve Yarbrough
Mary Lou Goodman

December 5  Heather Criswell  Bill Wright
December 6  Kathy Hollister  Joe Trobaugh, Jr
December 9  Noah Wright  Trish Francis
December 10  Mary Feltous  Ashley Wright
Tucker Dawson  Dylan Noble

December 11  Abby Koch  December 24  Shadi Frick
Michael Koch  Grace Prozesky

December 12  William Gray  December 25  Tom Campbell
Emily Gilchrist

December 13  Dana Oberg  December 26  Susan Brown
December 14  Bud Koch  Ryan Bailey
Judi Rossiter  Don Carlton
Diane Poshard  December 27  Austin Noble
Aaron Jannings  Jacob Deniston
Kennedy Diel

December 16  John Phelps  December 28  Trina Thomas
Nathan Byford  Sally Williams
Nicholas Ledbetter  Barbara Blacklock

December 17  Jim Grant  December 30  Sara Hinde
Laura Bishop  Angie Voss
Ronin Boene

December 18  Beulah Guard  December 31  Betty Buzzbee
Doug Baker  Sheila Crippen
Lauren Williams  Jill Davis
Katie Indorante  Lonzie Tripple
Braden Cook

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. They are studying Creed, What Christians Believe and Why, by Adam Hamilton.

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, Room 404