Dear FUMC Family:

Since reading about whatever you are trying to change will help you succeed, maybe you want to listen to an audio teaching on “How to Read More.” I’ll put a link online before the new year. It was created to help people to read during Lent. What if we stitch those together this year and throw ourselves at an issue or opportunity in our lives for 100 days? Could we finally attack something we know needs to get done, but never got around to in 2019? Many of us already make New Years resolutions or make a sacrifice during Lent. What if we stitch those together this year and throw ourselves at an issue or opportunity in our lives for the first 100 days? Look at what God did in 40 days. Imagine what God can do through us in 2 ½ times that.

Let me suggest a couple ideas and resources. Trying to do all these things at once would defeat the purpose. But has God been nudging you about one of these things?

- Spiritual - Do you need a Bible Reading plan or to start keeping a journal or a prayer list? (You can read all 4 gospels in 100 days by reading a chapter a day while taking Sundays off.) Learning how to invite people to church or talk about your faith (look for a “difference maker” training coming up). Try fasting (look for a pamphlet at church).

- Health - weight loss, lower blood pressure or cholesterol, deal with a dental or vision issue. What is your plan? Who is going to help you? Is there an appointment you need to put on the calendar today?

- Finances - face debt or get your finances under control. (It turns out God has a lot to say about this. Sign up for Financial Peace University and you won’t have to do it alone.) Finally say yes to tithing. (Try it for 100 days?) Get a will, make an estate plan, check your insurance, boost your retirement or college savings. Do you need to make an appointment with someone who can give you good advice?

- Marriage - Is there a bad habit you need to break or a good habit you want to start? (look for a “difference maker” training coming up). Try fasting (look for a pamphlet at church).

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- Life - ask God for help to get through the stress of debt and the trap of materialism affect our discipleship more than we realize. This year, there is a powerful opportunity to make a breakthrough in some area of our lives by embracing an idea we have all grown up with.

I am talking about the idea of bringing focus and action on something for the first 100 days. Think about it. Every US president going back to FDR has had a “first 100 days” plan. They do this because it often takes massive energy to get something launched (95% of the energy for a space shuttle flight is used on the launch). I recently realized that there are 100 days between January 1st and Good Friday in 2020. This prompted me to wonder and dream, “What could we get done at First UMC if we would focus and work on it for 100 days?” My list includes “doubling on Easter” and “grow stewardship 10% over 2019.” Each of these is doable, but will require a coordinated effort. More on this in coming weeks.

But then I started to think personally. What could be different in my life and yours if we bring concerted effort - not forever, but for 100 days. How could Good Friday be a great friday? Could we get off the starting line in some important area of our lives? Could we finally attack something we know needs to get done, but never got around to in 2019? Many of us already make New Years resolutions or make a sacrifice during Lent. What if we stitch those together this year and throw ourselves at an issue or opportunity in our lives for the first 100 days? Look at what God did in 40 days. Imagine what God can do through us in 2 ½ times that.

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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.”

The Rev. Dr. Howard L. White

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Howard L. White
Associate Pastor: Yiwen Bi
Dir. of Christian Education: Necia Jannings
Prayer Chain: Email: Sara Hinde at sjhinde04@gmail.com
Broadcast: 10:45 service is heard live on WCIL-AM (1020)
For van rides: Call the church office (457-2416)
Website: www.fumc-cdale.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistCdale
Twitter: @FUMCCarbondale
Instagram: FUMC_Carbondale

December 24, 2019
5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Worship Services
Special Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 29, 2019
First Sunday After Christmas
The Sermon: “What Does It Mean?”
Rev. John Sims
Scripture: Galatians 4: 4-9
Hymns: 238 Angels We Have Heard on High
179 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem
219 What Child Is This
246 Joy to the World

January 5, 2020
Communion Sunday
The Sermon: “A New Journey by Another Road”
Rev. In-Sook Hwang
Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12
Anthem: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
8:15 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
10:45 A New Year Dawns with Grace & Hope
Hymns: 245 The First Noel
254 We Three Kings
251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Sermon: “The Shepherds Story”
Rev. Howard White
Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20
Anthem: Once in Royal David’s City
Paula McNally, soprano; Robert. Weiss, trombone
10:45 Prophets of Old, Sanctuary Choir
Hymns: 250 Once in Royal David’s City
210 All Earth Is Waiting
204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

December 18, 2019 Issue
In Church On Sunday
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Beary Christmas Tree Stuffed Toys Due In Today

**Families in Progress Caroling-Meet at FUMC to Ride the bus to caroling locations**

**Christmas Eve Service**
- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:45 PM - Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 4:00 PM - Chimes
- 6:00 PM - Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 4:45 PM - Handbells
- 6:00 PM - Grateful Hearts, Room 308

**Advent Music Vesper Program**
- Sunday, December 22
- 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

**New Year’s Eve - Church Office Closed**
- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:45 PM - Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 4:00 PM - Chimes
- 6:00 PM - Families In Progress Caroling
- 4:45 PM - Handbells
- 6:00 PM - Grateful Hearts, Room 308

**New Year’s Day - Church Office Closed**
- 8:15 AM - Worship Service
- 9:30 AM - Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 10:45 AM - Worship Service
- 1:00 PM - UN-Decorating of the Church
- 6:00 PM - Good News Sing, Atrium
- 7:30 PM - Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 29**
- 9:30 AM - Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 10:45 AM - Worship Service
- 5:30 PM - Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410

**Sunday, December 30**
- 9:30 AM - Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 10:45 AM - Worship Service
- 1:00 PM - UN-Decorating of the Church

**January**

**Sunday, January 5**
- 8:15 AM - Worship Service

**Sunday, January 12**
- 8:15 AM - Worship Service

**Sunday, January 19**
- 8:15 AM - Worship Service

**Sunday, January 26**
- 8:15 AM - Worship Service

**January 5th Offering**

The last 5th Sunday Loose Change Offering in 2019 will occur on December 29, 2019.

Contributions made to this offering will be included in the March to the Manger Program.

Thank you for your support of this mission effort. Your contributions have helped numerous local agencies serve those in need.

The Missions Committee
Disciples for Sunday, December 22, 2019—4th Sunday of Advent

Acolytes: Madison Voss, Paige Hefferman  
Advent Readers: 8:15: Ed & Sue Tresnak  
10:45: Bud Koch Family  
Indoor Greeters: Erik & Dana Oberg  
Liturgists: 8:15: Nancy Keenan  
10:45: Gene Morgan  
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Joe Swindell  
10:45: Ron Browning  
December Ushers: John Washburn, Captain; 8:15: Bill Tally; 10:45: Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss  
Coffee Hosts: 8:15: Sharon & Larry Meyer  
10:45: Susan & Mike Burke  
Outside Greeters: John & Sally Washburn  
Van Driver: John Graig  
Welcome Center: 8:15: Judy Dilling  
10:45: JoVonna Noble  
December Nametags: Sheila Crippen  
Children’s Church Registration: Mari Ann Oberg

Disciples for Sunday, December 29, 2019—First Sunday after Christmas

Acolytes: 8:15: Madison Voss, Paige Hefferman  
Indoor Greeters: Ellen Cotten, Mary Beth Aguilar  
Liturgists: 8:15: Nancy Keenan  
10:45: Linda White  
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Joyce Crippen  
10:45: Mike Hanes  
December Ushers: John Washburn, Captain; 8:15: Bill Tally; 10:45: Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss  
Coffee Hosts: 8:15: Deanna & Ron Diel  
10:45: Dan Anderson, Ill  
Outside Greeters: The Hinde Family  
Van Driver: Brian Gorecki  
Welcome Center: 8:15: Jean Boehne  
10:45: Barbara Kimmel  
December Nametags: Sheila Crippen  
Children’s Church Registration: Mari Ann Oberg

Disciples for Wednesday, December 24, 2019—Christmas Eve Services (5 & 7 p.m.)

Acolytes: 5:00 Anne Marie Simonds, Margo Simonds  
Advent Readers: 5:00 Darren Bailey Family  
7:00: Gail & Linda White, Sue & Ed Tresnak  
Ushers: John Washburn, Captain; 5:00 Bill Tally and Mike & Emma Jean Durr Family  
7:00 Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Richard Bortz, Lana Gillman

Disciples for Tuesday, December 24, 2019—Christmas Eve Services (5 & 7 p.m.)

Acolytes: 5:00 Logan & Lexi Frick  
Indoor Greeters: Ellen Cotten, Mary Beth Aguilar  
Liturgists: 5:00 & 7:00: Paul McRoy  
Sound System Operators: 5:00: Scott Wright  
7:00: Keven Mitchell

FUMCNext-Carbondale Event

January 13, 2020—6:30 p.m., Heritage Room

A day time and evening Bible study is in the works to start after the new year. The Bible study will focus on the scripture and today’s issues. Specifics on the sessions will be announced in future Asburians.

SOAR Classes

for Middle/High School
and for 1st-5th Grades
Friday, Jan 3, 10 a.m.—noon
Contact Necia for information on remaining space in select classes

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
 Begins THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Join us as we learn about the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more.
This 9 week course includes workbook, lessons, access to website and online community, budgeting tools and much more.
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12—no class, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2
Childcare will be available if needed.
Cost is $80/family

To register or for more information, contact Necia 457-2416
Give a gift of music for Christmas, or treat yourself to beautiful sounds of the season from FUMC. We still have copies of two CD’s produced by FUMC musicians which feature Christmas music. “For Unto Us a Child is Born” features the Sanctuary Choir, accompanied by orchestra, as well as the Handbell choir and various soloists. “Piano @ First” is a double CD of piano music performed by Anita Hutton. One of those discs is all Christmas music.

Copies are available for $10 from Bob Weiss or in the church office.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS NOTE:

Year End Contribution Statements

2019 is rapidly drawing to a close and it will soon be time to generate Year End Contribution Statements. This year, the final deposit that will be recorded on members’ statements will be made following the 10:45 service on Sunday, December 29. All checks/envelopes received that day will be recorded for 2019 unless clearly marked for 2020.

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31, New Year’s Eve day. Thank you all for your generosity!

The Counting Committee

Remember to wish the following Church members and friends a very happy birthday for the month of January 2020:

January 1
Carri Williams

January 2
Marianne Lather

January 3
Andy Morgan

January 4
Nathan Scott

January 6
Brenda Goodman

January 7
Troy Boehne

January 8
Mark Welstein

January 9
Chris Intraiva

January 10
Barbara Kimmel

January 11
Mary Frances Dorn

January 12
Jake Cook

January 13
Tallis Arz

January 14
Betty Hamilton

January 15
Mary Pohlmann

January 16
Bruce Ashby

January 17
Evelyn Gates

January 18
Anne Marie Simonds

January 19
Cynthia Weller

January 20
Sharon Benton

January 21
Laurel Fick

January 22
Bobbie Lenzini

January 23
Maggie Davis

January 24
Valerie Brittin

January 25
Carolyn Gibson

January 26
Sharon Meyer

January 27
John Owens

January 28
Joe Powers

January 29
Jeffrey Doherty

January 30
Evie Mullen

January 31
Sheri Rush

February 1
Jan Waggoner

February 2
Henry Dillinger

February 3
Trenton Funk

February 4
James Lewis

February 5
Claudia Broom

February 6
Helen Downey

February 7
Brian Kelley

February 8
Stewart Clark

February 9
Ryan Vancil

February 10
Pam Yarbrough

February 11
Kay Dosier

February 12
Emma Smith

February 13
Jonas Goodson

February 14
Dianna Reusch

February 15
Timothy Young

February 16
Alec Lenzini

February 17
Cindy Massie
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: “Church Communities Celebrate Jesus” - Dec. 22 Sunday School—“Jesus Is Born” Dec. 29 Sunday School—“Shepherd’s Story” —Main Topic: Jesus Leads the Community — Jan. 5—“Jesus Is Baptized”

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 the Youth Room 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 Class - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. The group is studying 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. The group is studying How Happiness Happens by Max Lucado on Wednesdays, 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.

Saturday Night Live is a group of “mature” or “maturing” adults who meet monthly for dinner and fellowship. The group usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Watch the Asburian calendar for dates and location information. Everyone is welcome.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. Time and location to be determined each week.