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 the love of God.”

Dear Friends,

This will be the last time for musings in the year 2018. By the time I write you again, it will be 2019. Because in 2018 there were changes in some of the tax laws, I have been asked about year-end giving and how it might benefit you and the church. One of the main issues that is going to happen is that there may be a difference in what can be deducted for “charitable giving”. The main thing is that you will need to discuss your gifts with your financial advisor before you make any big decisions. Just remember that year-end gifts need to be in the church office before noon on December 30, 2018, in order to be included on this year’s giving statement.

One possibility is that if you do not need all, or any, of the income from your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can give a portion or all of the distribution to your church, and there will be no taxable event on that amount. You must contact whoever is holding your IRA and do the distribution through them. They will have the appropriate forms to fill out and sign and will distribute your request to your church. There are other ways to do year-end giving but you need, again, to talk to your financial advisor.

As the year comes to a close, what would you say was your greatest accomplishment for 2018? This question sounds like a question a psychologist would ask you, but really, what do you see as the thing that you completed this year that is important to you? This is one of those questions that has no right or wrong answer. Whatever you see as what you accomplished is what the answer is. That question just popped into my head this past week and I began to think about it a little bit. When I see what I have done compared to what I planned to do, sometimes those are quite different things. No, I am not going to tell you what I have come up with, because I want you to come up with your own.

Accomplishments and success are not always the same thing, though we seem to lump them together. Sometimes we have an accomplishment that is something of a success. At other times, an accomplishment was rather forced upon us, because of a difficult or bad situation we found ourselves in. When we look back on a difficult situation and see that we managed to get through it with just a few bumps and bruises, we can feel as though we accomplished something that impacted our life. Often, successes can become something we enjoy at the time, but then forget about quickly. But when we have to face a challenge we can find ourselves utilizing inner resources we never knew we had and that kind of experience will last for a long while.

Take a few minutes and just think about your experiences in 2018 and see if you can identify what you see as your most important accomplishment. It might be interesting.

With that being said, I hope you have a very blessed Christmas and a fruitful new year!

See You Sunday.

Alan
## Monday

| 21 Sunday | Christmas Caroling—meet at FUMC
| 21 Monday | New Year’s Day—Church Office Closed
| 21 Tuesday | New Year’s Day—Church Office Closed

## Tuesday

| 20 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 20 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 20 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## Wednesday

| 22 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 22 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 22 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## Thursday

| 23 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 23 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 23 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## Friday

| 24 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 24 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 24 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## Saturday

| 25 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 25 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 25 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## Sunday

| 26 Thursday | Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
| 26 Friday | Golden Yoga, Room 404
| 26 Saturday | Golden Yoga, Room 404

## New Year’s Day

| 26 Sunday | New Year’s Day—Church Office Closed
| 27 Monday | New Year’s Day—Church Office Closed
| 27 Tuesday | No Events Scheduled
| 27 Wednesday | No Events Scheduled
| 27 Thursday | No Events Scheduled
| 27 Friday | No Events Scheduled
| 27 Saturday | No Events Scheduled
| 27 Sunday | No Events Scheduled

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**ASBURIAN PRINTING NOTICE:**

The January 6 Asburian will go out as usual on January 2, however, the deadline date for submitting items for the January 6 Asburian will be 9:30 a.m. December 27 due to limited Church Office hours during the holidays.

Please send your calendar/news items to barbm@fumc-cdale.org.

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**DISCIPLES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>S 8:15</th>
<th>T 10:45</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acolytes</td>
<td>Anne Marie Simonds, Madison Ross</td>
<td>Olivia Bishop, Reese Matzenbacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Greeters</td>
<td>Lavina Thomas, Wilma Davis</td>
<td>Ellen Cotten, Mary Beth Aguilar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgists</td>
<td>Duane Stucky, Bud Koch</td>
<td>Tabitha Koch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound System</td>
<td>Joe Swindell, Ron Browning</td>
<td>Joe Swindell, Ron Browning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Ushers</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Singers</td>
<td>Rob &amp; Linda Lucas</td>
<td>Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Church</td>
<td>Kayli and Rayna Lucas</td>
<td>Lisa Daniels and Jess John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Helpers</td>
<td>George &amp; Shirley Everingham</td>
<td>Carole Daecke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Choir</td>
<td>Susan &amp; Mike Burke</td>
<td>Michael Hinde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss</td>
<td>Lisa Daniels and Jess John</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee Hosts</td>
<td>Sharon &amp; Larry Meyer</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>December Nametags</td>
<td>Sheila Crippen</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside Greeters</td>
<td>Shelby Seegers</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Drivers</td>
<td>Don Bryant, Jr.</td>
<td>John Washburn, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Center</td>
<td>Kathy Swindell, JoVanna Noble</td>
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**DISCIPLES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018**

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**Brr! Brrrr!! Missing my knee length black wool coat!! It was last seen on the coat rack outside the sanctuary in November. Could it accidentally be in your coat closet? For more info, call Carol Cain at 618/967-5105 or just hang it back on the coat rack outside the Sanctuary. Thanks**

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**DISCOARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

We need volunteers to be Usher Captains for May/November 2019. Regular Ushers needed at 8:15 a.m. for February/August and June/December. Call the Church Office to volunteer.

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**Calendar Dates for 2019:**

- Please come in to the Church Office and write in or call in your church-related events held in January 2019 on the Office Calendar as soon as possible and any other dates in 2019.

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**Childcare Services:**

Childcare Services will be available during both services (5:00 & 7:00 p.m.) on Christmas Eve.

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**Blessings and Appreciation:**

To everyone who contributed to the landscape projects this year, in particular to Sharon Meyer, Jan Verduin and Barbara Bedient for watering our planters. A BIG THANK YOU to Mike and Charlene Bidding for endless hours of watering, weeding and planting in maintaining our landscape over this very hot summer and their dedication in improving our church property. Sincerely, Jean Boeufine.

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**New Year’s Day:**

- New Year’s Day—Church Office Closed

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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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**PARISH PULSE**

**As of December 19, 2018**

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Advent Music Vespers Programs
Sunday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Organ music played by Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.

IGRC scholarship application process opened
December 1, 2018

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.

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@igr.org or Amy Shreve at ashreve@igr.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.

Join Us
Ringers needed. One or two handbell ringers are urgently needed for our handbell choir in the new year. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. All you need are basic rhythm reading skills. Please contact Bob Weiss (rweiss@siu.edu or 618-203-1672) if you are interested.

Our church has over 15 members who are studying in colleges across the nation. Although most of them are not in Carbondale, they are in our church family whom we love, support and never forget.

Would you like to connect with one or two of them in the next year? Telling them we often think of them, care about them and are always at their back?

Maybe sending the students a message of our prayer for them? Maybe a birthday gift? Maybe doing this in your appropriate way?

Please contact Yiwen (yiwenb@fumc-cdale.org, 618-457-2416) if you’re interested in connecting with one/two of our college students. Thank you!

1st round:
4:30 pm, meet @ FUMC
2nd round:
5:30 pm, meet @ Grace UMC
Dinner:
7pm, Italian Village

1st UMC Carbondale Christmas Caroling
Open to all Dec. 21st

★ Singing Christmas carols to our home-bound church members
★ Cookies and hot chocolate for carolers
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: “Celebrate Advent with Your Family”— December 23 Sunday School— “Joseph, Mary, and Jesus” and December 30 Sunday School—“Simeon and Anna”

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. Women of all ages are welcome. The last Advent Devotional and Study class will be December 23.

The Investors Class - Advent Devotional and Study. Taste & See Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. The Investors Class will resume THE STORY CONTINUES in Room 404, the Chapel on December 30. 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.

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.

Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS NOTE:

Year End Contribution Statements

2018 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 30. All checks/envelopes received that day will be recorded for 2018 unless clearly marked for 2019.

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

The Counting Committee

There are several bags of nuts still available from the Youth Nut Fundraiser. These are perfect for the holidays. Prices have been reduced.

Inquire at the Church Office: Monday—Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Walnuts and Pralines are now $10 per bag.

Thank you for supporting the Youth Group.

The last 5th Sunday Loose Change Offering in 2018 will occur on December 30, 2018.

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

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Opportunities, Sundays

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Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey.
Remember to wish the following Church members and friends a very happy birthday for the month of January 2019.

| January 1  | Carri Williams           | January 19 | Bobbe Lenzini  |
| January 2  | Marianne Lather          | January 20 | Maggie Davis   |
| January 3  | Andy Morgan              | January 21 | Sharon Meyer   |
| January 4  | Sally Washburn           | January 21 | Valerie Brittin|
|            | Nathan Scott             |            | Carolyn Gibson |
| January 5  | Brenda Goodman           | January 22 | John Owens     |
|            | Keven Mitchell           |            | Janet Vaught   |
| January 6  | Jack Whirtlock           | January 23 | Sheri Rush     |
|            | Linda White              |            | Jeffrey Doherty|
|            | Troy Boehme              |            | Evie Mullen    |
| January 7  | Mark Wetstein            | January 24 | Tate Diel      |
| January 8  | Barbara Kimmel           | January 24 | Jan Waggner    |
| January 9  | Rob Lucas                | January 25 | Will Presley   |
|            | Chris Intravaia          |            | Henry Dillinger|
|            | Ruthie Morgan            |            | James Lewis    |
| January 10 | Alison Funk              | January 26 | Trenton Funk   |
|            | Scott Wright             |            | Helen Downey   |
| January 11 | Mary Frances Dorn        | January 27 | Claudia Broom  |
| January 12 | Carol Good               | January 27 | Brian Kelley   |
|            | Charlotte Diel           |            | Pam Yarbrough  |
|            | Jake Cook                |            | Ryan Vancil    |
| January 13 | Tallis Anz               | January 28 | Stewart Clark  |
| January 14 | Betty Hamilton           | January 29 | Emma Smith     |
|            | Mary Pohlmann            |            | Kay Dosier     |
| January 15 | Verdeen Twomey           | January 29 | Dianna Reusch  |
|            | Cynthia Weller           |            | Jonas Goodson  |
|            | Bruce Ashby              | January 30 | Timothy Young  |
|            | Evelyn Gates             |            | Cindy Massie   |
|            | Anne Marie Simonds       | January 31 | Alec Lenzini   |
| January 16 | Sharon Benton            |            |                |
|            | Laurel Fick              |            |                |