Dear Friends,

Tis’ the season!!! This is the time of year when our schedules seem to have more things in them than there are days to get them done. I hope in the midst of all the activity you have a chance to have some quiet time to think about the importance of this season and how the birth of the Christ child impacts your life. Our “Not Around the Table Carol Sing” and Children’s Christmas Program will be December 2 at 6 p.m. This is generally done in the fellowship hall where we sit around tables, share cookies, and watch the children’s program. Because of the construction the fellowship hall is not usable, but the show will go on, and will be held in the Sanctuary with refreshments afterward in the Heritage Room. Of course the Children’s Program that evening, entitled “Not Another Christmas Program,” is a great way to experience the spirit of Christmas.

The Sunday Vespers are another opportunity to experience the season. This is a quiet time in the Sanctuary to just sit and listen to Christmas music from the excellent corps of musicians we have here at the church. Here is the schedule for the Vespers:

December 9----Joe Walczyk on trumpet, Bob Weiss on trombone, and Anita Hutton on piano.
December 16---Kara Benyas, Anita Hutton---4 Hand Piano.
December 23---Dr. Sidney Smith, on the organ.

We have our regular schedule of events for the season as well beginning with the “March to the Manger” on December 9, at both 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. This is a service when we each give an offering to special projects in our community and around the world. Then on December 16, during both services, we will have our “Lessons and Carols.” This is our annual musical presentation that reminds us of the prophecy and events surrounding the birth of Christ. This is a community event and you will not find a better musical presentation for the season like this anywhere.

There are also times offered church-wide for the Advent Study this year—“Taste & See; Experiencing the Stories of Advent and Christmas.” This will be a part of our Sunday School Classes as well as there is a weekday study on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., in Room 410.

The final part of our Advent/Christmas worship will be our Christmas Eve Candlelight services, December 24, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. This time is special as we worship together with family and friends on Christmas Eve. Again, I hope you find the time to experience the true meaning of the season in these or any other celebrations you may be a part of in the coming weeks.

See You Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

5 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neil Dorsey
Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
10:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm. 410
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Rm. 308

6 Thursday
11:30 PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon and Program, Heritage Room, $8 Lunch
1:00 UMW, Priscilla Circle
5:30 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:00-10 SI Audubon Society, Heritage Room

8 Saturday
8:30 All Church Hanging of the Greens
9 Sunday
March to the Manger
Second Sunday of Advent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Advent Study –Investors & Renew Classes
10:45 Worship Service and Children's Church
5:00 Music Vespers, Anita Hutton-piano.
Joe Walczyk-trumpet, and Bob Weiss-trombone, Sanctuary

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

6 Thursday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neil Dorsey
Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
10:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm. 410
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel
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Joe Walczyk-trumpet, and Bob Weiss-trombone, Sanctuary

BRING YOUR MARCH TO THE MANGER GIFTS TODAY

In Sympathy: Sympathy to family & friends of Louise Jeffords who passed away on November 25.
2019 Flower Chart: is ready for sign ups. It is in the same location—one 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.
Thank You: Thank You Don and Brian for picking us up every Sunday at Liberty Village. From the ladies and the gentleman at Liberty Village:

Disciples for Sunday, December 2, 2018
Welcome Center: 8:15 Sara & Ted Pilger; 10:45 Evelyn Bailey
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Kathy & Joe Swindell; 10:45 Pam & Steve Yarbrough
Outside Greeters: The Hinde Family
December Nametags: Sheila Crippen
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
Children’s Church Registration: JoVonna Noble
Carol Sing Rehearsal: Jennifer Woolridge
Youth Helpers: All Youth
December Communion Ushers: (10:45) Karl Bartelsmeyer, Captain; George Everingham, Jan Waggoner
December Communion Committee: (8:15) Dan & Joan Boehne; (10:45) Setup: Milly Kaiser; Clean up: Milly Kaiser, Shadi, Karen, Lexi & Logan Frick

Please Join us for the All Church “Hanging of the Greens”
8:30 a.m. • Saturday, December 8
This event is coordinated by Priscilla Circle.
Your participation is welcome. See you there!

Sunday, December 16, 2018
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Services

Lessons & Carol's

DECEMBER
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 Sundays in the Investors Class (Chapel). Sign up sheet for Wednesday mornings is in the narthex.

Advent Music Vespers Programs
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
December 9 Joe Walczyk-trumpet, Bob Weiss-trombone, and Anita Hutton-piano
December 16 Kara Benyas and Anita Hutton-4 hand piano
December 23 Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.-organ

“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.

REHEARSAL, preschool—5th grade, is Sunday, December 2, in Room 410/411 during 10:45 a.m. worship

2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY
Taste & See Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas By Jan Johnson

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 TASTE AND SEE EXPERIENCING THE STORIES OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

JULY 9
JULY 16
JULY 23
JULY 30
AUGUST 6
AUGUST 13
AUGUST 20
AUGUST 27
SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 10
SEPTEMBER 17
SEPTEMBER 24
OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER 8
OCTOBER 15
OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 29
NOVEMBER 5
NOVEMBER 12
NOVEMBER 19
NOVEMBER 26
DECEMBER 3
DECEMBER 10
DECEMBER 17
DECEMBER 24

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

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.
**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: “Celebrate Advent with Your Family” — December 2 Sunday School—“Elizabeth and Zechariah”

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.

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.

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

Thursday 6  Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
Saturday 8  Priscilla Circle, 8:30 a.m.
        Hanging of the Greens
Tuesday 18  Morning Circle Christmas Brunch
        Location: Hunan’s  Time: 11:30 a.m.

**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 December 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 at 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.

**Spero Family Services**, formerly United Methodist Children’s Home, will be represented by John Shadowens for the Mission Moment on Sunday, December 2nd. Spero Family Services is on our March to the Manger agency list.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Missions Committee!