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.”

In Church This Sunday
December 3, 2017

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

Sermon: “The Thrill of Hope”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Anthem: 8:15 What Child Is This? Handbell Choir
10:45 Every Valley Sanctuary Choir

Hymns: 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
707 Hymn of Promise
640 Take Our Bread
368 My Hope Is Built

Altar flowers this week are given by the Missions Committee, with thanks to the congregation for their continued generosity.

Indoor Greeters: Jean & Don Boehne
Acolytes: 10:45 Rayna Lucas and Olivia Bishop

Sound System Operators:
8:15 Joyce Crippen; 10:45 Keven Mitchell

Liturgists: 8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Claudia Broom

December Ushers:
8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Claudia Broom

Musings

Dear Friends,

I lost my cell phone the week before Thanksgiving. I was in the woods enjoying nature with my phone in my pocket, and when I arrived at a friend’s house, the phone wasn’t there. So, my friend and I headed back to the woods and looked for about an hour. No cell phone. We retraced my steps over and over, even traveling slowly on the road that took us back to his house, but still no luck. Finally, I decided we were not going to find it and I came home. On Monday, my friend looked for another three hours, but the phone could not be found.

I am certain you have lost things and have looked and looked without any success in finding what you lost. It is frustrating, isn’t it? I came to work on Monday and the reality of not having a phone became real. I didn’t know anyone’s cell number. I have “notes” in my phone that tell me all of my passwords to various programs I use, and the list of things I didn’t have could go on and on. I basically know three numbers: Connie’s cell phone, home, and the office. Now if I thought real hard, I may come up with a few others, but not very many. As a side note, I can remember the phone numbers of the parsonages I have lived in the last forty years, but that is information of no real value. But for numbers I need “now,” they are not available without my cell phone.

Well, to make a long story short, I used the insurance I have on my phone and ordered a replacement – which still cost me money. Insurance means something different for me than it does for my cell phone insurance, I guess; I don’t think I should have to pay anything, but……I did. So, with the help of my son, who was here for Thanksgiving, I got the new phone set up and I didn’t lose any data or pictures because I use the “cloud.” You “tech savvy” people will know what that is. For the rest of us, it means somewhere “out there” in the wireless world there is a storage place for data…. Don’t ask me to explain it, because I can’t. Now, I am back to having my information at my “fingertips.”

You know, it was really kind of nice not to have texts and calls coming in all of the time. It was nice to not have to worry about missing calls and receiving solicitations for things I don’t really need and won’t buy. My children, who were here for thanksgiving, all gave me unasked-for advice on how to not lose my phone – I suppose I felt the same way they probably did when I gave them advice. What lessons have I gained from this experience? First, we are slaves to devices these days, that I am not sure is all good, nor do I know how we “free” ourselves from these devices. Second, being without something for awhile makes you appreciate it more. Third, creatures in the woods won’t answer your phone and tell you where you lost it. Finally, when things like this happen (and there are things a lot more serious than this that unexpectedly happen in our lives) if we just stay the course and use the “tools” we have in our faith, we can make it through. Down the line, we may even feel that there is a blessing in the situation. You knew there would be a sermon in this somewhere, didn’t you? I just can’t help it. It comes with the job.

Just a reminder: This Sunday is our first Vesper Service with Susan Frey providing the music at 5:00 p.m. Then, at 6:00 p.m. we will have our “Carols Sing and Children’s Program” in Fellowship Hall.

See you Sunday,

Rev. Alan Rhein
In Church This Week

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

2 Saturday
8:45 Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:00 SI Audubon Society, Fellowship Hall

3 Sunday
8:30 First Sunday of Advent
Communion

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

10:45 Worship Service - Carol Sing Rehearsal
10:45 Youth Super Church, Chapel

5:00 Music Vespers, Susan Frey, organ, Sanctuary
6:00 Around the Table Carol Sing and Children’s Program, Fellowship Hall

4 Monday
10:00 Oak Grove Outreach
12:00 Poinsettia Orders and Memorial Information are due today
6:30 Good News, Atrium
7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

5 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404

6 Wednesday
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill Dorsey, Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
6:00 Chime Choir Rehearsal

7 Thursday
11:30 PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon and Program, Fellowship Hall, $8 Lunch
5:30 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

8 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:30 Flute Concert, Sanctuary

9 Saturday
8:30 All Church Hanging of the Greens

10 Sunday
March to the Manger
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Services

PRIMETIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & PROGRAM
Thursday, December 7, 2017 • 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Holiday Program presented by the Show Choir of Carbondale Jr. High
Led by Vocal Music Teacher, Jessica Murphy

Lunch $8.00

Meal includes Turkey and Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, and special holiday desserts

PARISH Pulse
As of November 29, 2017

In Sympathy: Sympathy to John & Marilyn Annable, family and friends, on the death of his brother, Richard Annable, who passed away November 17, 2017 in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Please join us for a Soup Supper this Advent season.
Following Music Vespers on the following dates, join us at 5:30 p.m. for soup or chili supper in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 10, sponsored by the Investors Class
Sunday, December 17, sponsored by Grateful Hearts and the Renew Class

Advent Music Vespers Programs
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
December 3 Susan Frey, organ
December 10 Anita Hutton, piano
December 17 Anita Hutton, piano and Robert Weiss, trombone

Please join us for the All Church “Hanging of the Greens”
8:30 a.m. • Saturday, December 9
This event is coordinated by Priscilla Circle.
Your participation is welcome. SEE YOU THERE!

Sunday, December 17, 2017
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Services

Disciples for Sunday, December 3, 2017
Outside Greeters: Jan & Gary Austin
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15 Jon Gobert; 10:45 Evelyn Bailey
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Deanna & Ron Diel; 10:45 Dan Anderson III
Nursery: - Info; - Youth December Nametags: Sheila Crippen
Communion Ushers (10:45) Karl Bartelsmeyer, Captain; George Everingham, and Jan Waggoner
Communion Preparation (8:15) Henry & Judy Dillinger; (10:45) Steve & Crystal Mitchell, Team Leaders; Catherine Mitchell, Paula, Mike, Brenden and Rhys McNally
**Upcoming Holiday Events**

**NOVEMBER**
- Thursday 30  Priscilla Circle Potluck Lunch
  12:00 p.m. Heritage Room
  Set-up of the Beary Tree & Advent Wreath

**DECEMBER**
- Friday 1  CWU Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon, First Christian Church
  12:00 p.m. Lunch; 1:00 p.m. Meeting
- Saturday 9  All Church “Hanging of the Greens”
  8:30 a.m., coordinated by Priscilla Circle
- Wednesday 13  Women’s Wednesday Fellowship, 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday 19  Morning Circle Christmas Brunch, Heritage Room

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**GOOD DEEDS MANGER**

- Pick up a “Good Deeds Manger” and bag of straw in the Atrium
- Place the manger in a prominent place in your home.
- Each evening, gather the family together around the manger
- Each family member will share what good deeds they have done during the day.
- For each good deed, a piece of straw is placed in the manger.
- On Christmas day, you will have prepared a soft bed of straw for the baby Jesus.

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**“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.

REHEARSAL (Preschool - 5th grade) is Sunday, December 3, in Fellowship Hall during the 10:45 a.m. worship

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**MARCH TO THE MANGER • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017**

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.

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**NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE.**

- Toy cars & trucks
- Dolls
- Toy dishes
- Soccer balls
- Basketball
- Football
- Educational toys, puzzles and games
- Christian children’s books
- Christian music CD’s
- Christian DVD’s
- Toddler Toys
- Building blocks

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**STORYTIME**

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.
FRI DAY, DE CE MB E R 1 5 • 5 : 0 0 P . M.

Families in Progress continue the Christmas tradition!
In honor and memory of Normagene Warner, retired pastor Bill Warner’s beloved wife.
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.
Please RSVP for the family, so we have a head count.
We hope you can join us!

PLACE YOUR ORDER AND MEMORIAL INFORMATION BY DECEMBER 4

The tradition of decorating the Church with poinsettias continues. You may either order a poinsettia through the church or make your own arrangements. If ordering through the church, please order early to ensure the size and color you want! Orders and all memorial information must be in the Church Office by 12:00 Noon, Monday, December 4, 2017.

If making your own arrangements, please wrap the pot in foil and bring the plant in during office hours on December 11, 12 or by noon on the 13th.

For further information, contact Claudia Broom (457-4855).

Name: ____________________________ Daytime Phone: ____________________________

I will be bringing a poinsettia ______ I would like to order the following:

Regular Size (6")  $10.00
Large Size (8")  $23.00

Enclosed is cash or a check

made out to First UMC

in the amount of ______

in honor of __________________________

in memory of __________________________

other (please state) __________________________

I will pick up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th.

Additional forms may be found in the Church Office, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, or at www.fumc-cdale.org/Resources/Current Forms

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 - Advent Study, Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey Through the Gospels) by Magrey R. deVega, continues. 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 - Advent Study, Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey Through the Gospels) by Magrey R. deVega, continues. Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404 (the Chapel). Everyone welcome!

The Electives Class - Advent Study, Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey Through the Gospels) by Magrey R. deVega, continues. Pastor Alan leads the discussion in the Heritage Room.

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 meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308. 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.