Dear Friends,

The next two Sundays, December 9 and 16, have some of the more important services that we celebrate during the Advent Season. First, December 9, we will have our “March to the Manger.” This is a time when we give an offering to various projects. We can choose a project from a list that is mailed out (a copy is enclosed in both the Asburian and Bulletin this week), choose a project of your own, or don’t designate a project and the Missions Committee decides where there is a need. Why is this important? Well, this season of the year we can get caught up in all of the “hype” about gifts, spending, and partying. There is nothing wrong with any of these, of course, but when we give a special offering to something that will help others, we get a sense of just what Advent and Christmas is all about. Giving helps us respond in an appropriate way to the gift of Christ to the world. God loves us and God sent Christ into the world to illustrate just how powerful God’s love was and is. For us to respond by giving is a way for us to thank God for what God has done. Every year it amazes me just how much is given above and beyond our regular giving. Our “March to the Manger” will take place at both services, 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

On December 16, during both services, we will have our “Service of Lessons and Carols.” This is an important service because we have the opportunity to participate in the whole story of Christmas. We begin with the prophet Isaiah’s words about a coming Messiah and conclude with the story of Jesus birth. The lessons that are read and the carols that are sung capture the true meaning of this season and that makes this service an important part of our celebration of Advent and Christmas. Another thing that makes this important is that it is a ministry to Carbondale and the surrounding area. We will have people come from various communities to share in this service. Because of this, we have the privilege of sharing the “Good News” of God’s love through the birth of Jesus into the world with people near and far. What makes this extra special is that there is no better quality of music anywhere in the area. I am sure you are aware of this, but our Director of Music, Bob Weiss, is committed to making sure our music is the kind that makes a good witness whether it is on Sunday or at the “Lessons and Carols.” This means that “quality” is at the top of the list of things he is committed to providing. Bob and I agree that offering the best in the name of the Church, in music or whatever we do as a church, is a powerful witness to our faith. I am thankful for this and I am sure you are as well.

I hope you will participate in both of these special Sundays. I guarantee that whether it is bringing your “March to the Manger” offering or sharing in “Lessons and Carols,” the meaning and spirit of this season will become real and be a blessing.

See You Sunday,

Alan
**ASBURIAN PRINTING NOTICE:**

Due to the Christmas holiday week ahead, the Asburian for December 23 and the 30th will be consolidated into one newsletter and mailed on December 19th. Please submit calendar/news items for the calendar dates December 20 to January 6th no later than 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 18.

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 8:30 a.m. December 27 due to limited Church Office hours during the holidays. Please send your calendar/news items to barbm@fumc-cdale.org.

---

**In Church This Week**

**December**

**6 Thursday**
- **PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon and Program**
  - Heritage Room, 58 Lunch
  - 1:00 UMW, Priscilla Circle
  - 4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
  - 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 St. Audubon Society, Heritage Room

**8 Saturday**
- 8:30 All Church Hanging of the Greens

**9 Sunday**
- **March to the Manger**
  - Second Sunday of Advent

  - **Blood Pressure Check after each service**
    - 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

**10 Monday**
- **Bring Your March to the Manger Gifts Today**

---

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

**12 Wednesday**
- 9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm. 403
- 10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Nell Dorsey
- 11:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm. 410
- 12:00 Youth Group, Chapel
- 6:00 Grateful Hearts, Rm. 308
- 6:00 Scout Committee, Rm 410

**13 Thursday**
- Noon Deadline to bring in your poinsettias today—wrapped in foil along with memorial
- 2:00 **Poinsettia Decorating** with Rhonda Kelley and volunteers—everyone welcome, Atrium
- 4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
- 5:30 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**14 Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**15 Saturday**
- **Lessons and Carols**

**16 Sunday**
- **Third Sunday of Advent**

  - **Service of Lessons and Carols**
    - 8:15 Service of Lessons and Carols
    - 9:30 Sunday School
    - 9:30 Advent Study - Investors & Renew Classes
    - 10:45 Service of Lessons and Carols
    - 5:00 **Music Vespers**, Kara Benyas and Anita Hutton, 4-hand piano

---

**Parish Pulse**

**As of December 4, 2018**

**PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon & Program.** Join us this Thursday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room for PrimeTimers. The holiday program is presented by Ed and Kara Benyas. Meal is $8.00

**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. 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.

**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 to all of those who helped with the “Not” Around the Table Carol Sing. You helped make it a wonderful night to begin our holiday season. Thank you also to all of the children for the wonderful performance. Merry Christmas! —Necia Jannings

**Thank You** to all who have sent prayers and cards my way this year. —Paulette Milroy.

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, Pecan Pieces, and Pralines are now $10 per bag. Honey Roasted Peanuts and Mixed Yogurt Raisins are now $5 per bag.

Thank you for supporting the Youth Group.

---

**Disciples for Sunday, December 9, 2018**

**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Sara & Ted Pilger, 10:45 Judy McNeill

**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Lyn Christy and Jeff Anderer; 10:45 Angie & Neil Voss, Jackie Cox

**Outside Greeters:** Jan & Gary Austin, December Nametags: Sheila Crippen

**Van Drivers:** Brian Gorecki, John Graig

**Parish Nurses:** 9:15: Betty Graig; 11:45: Dana Oberg
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

Dear College Students,
We hope you enjoy a Final Exams Goody Bag, and that it provides you with great energy for success. Please pick one up in the Narthex after either service this Sunday, December 9.

Best Wishes.
Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Sincerely, Your Church Family

FINAL EXAM GOODY BAGS

Dear College Students,
We hope you enjoy a Final Exams Goody Bag, and that it provides you with great energy for success. Please pick one up in the Narthex after either service this Sunday, December 9.

Best Wishes. Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Sincerely, Your Church Family

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.

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

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@fumcdale.org, 618-457-2416) if you’re interested in connecting with one/two of our college students. Thank you!

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, at 10:00 a.m. (Room 410) led by Pastor Alan or on Sundays, 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.

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.
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 9 Sunday School—"Mary"

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.

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.wesleyfoundationsofflorida.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.

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.

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