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 10, 2017
March to the Manger
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon: “A Straight Path”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Anthem:
8:15 Mary, Did You Know?
Paula McNally, soloist
10:45 Advent Noel
Sanctuary Choir and Handbells

Hymns:
211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
473 Lead Me, Lord
(Also, a selection of carols for March to the Manger)

Altar flowers this week are given by Barb & Doug Bedient, in memory of their parents.
Indoor Greeters: Bobbe & Joe Lenzini
Acolytes: 10:45 John and Madison Voss

Sound System Operators:
8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Ron Browning
Liturgist: 8:15 and 10:45 Paul McRoy

December Ushers: John Washburn, Captain;
8:15 Larry Good, Bill Tally
10:45 Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson,
John Hinde and Angie Voss

We are fast approaching the celebration of Christmas Day and the birth of Christ. Once November is here, the days seem to fly by and, all of a sudden, we are at Christmas Day. Some of you, no doubt, have all of your Christmas shopping and decorations finished. And, then, there’s the rest of us… I hope you are able to find some time to just think about what this season really means to you. We can often get going at such a pace that we don’t have the time to reaffirm who we are as Christians, when it comes to the birth of Christ. Unfortunately, what happens then is that we begin to long for the time when Christmas is over. We all may have been there at one time or another. We do offer opportunities here at First Church to help regain your focus for this season of the year. All of those are listed in your Asburian and there will be reminders in the Asburian and in your Sunday bulletin, so, look for those.

I would like to mention that this Sunday, December 10, is our “March to the Manger” at both our 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. This is a time when we emphasize giving to others during this season. There will be a time in the service when we will be given the opportunity to bring our gifts forward and place them in the manger. All of those gifts will be used for whatever project you choose or if you do not designate a particular group or organization, the Missions Committee will divide up the undesignated and give them to projects on the list. A letter has been sent with a list of projects and we will have the list available Sunday. The importance of this giving, for me, is that we continue a long history of this congregation that has been committed to give to others who have need. Over the years there have been so many people who the giving of this Church has been important to and has affected their lives. I don’t know of any better way to celebrate and participate in the spirit of giving, that is at the heart of this season of the year, than through “March to the Manger.” I know I probably say this every year, but, it is always a moving time for me to watch people come forward with their monetary offering, as well as our children who bring a toy of some kind to share. It is something so simple, yet so important. Why? Well, because we live in a time when people are focused so much on themselves and their own needs, that we need some way to express the contrary attitude of giving to others. This is an excellent way to do that.

What we are doing is reminding ourselves of the meaning of giving, as well as teaching our children the importance of giving. I look forward to sharing this time of giving with you this week.

See you Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

**PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon and Program**
- **Sunday, December 17, 2017**
- 8:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service
- 10:00 a.m. Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 10:15 a.m. Golden Yoga, Room 404

**PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon & Program:** Join us this Thursday, December 7 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for PrimeTimers. The holiday program is presented by the Show Choir of Carbondale Jr. High, led by Jessica Murphy. Meal is $8.00.

**Thank You:** The Executive Board would like to express deepest appreciation and thanks to Associate Tom Byford, Dr. Doug Baker, John & Betty Graig, and Don Boehne, for their time and talents toward the last landscape project of the season.

**New Address:** The Fink’s have a new address: Gerald & Marlene Fink, The Landings, 2100 Reed Station Crossing, Apt. 104, Carbondale, IL 62901.

**Poinsettia Decorating - Time Change:** The Renew Class will decorate the church with poinsettias on Thursday, December 7 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for PrimeTimers. The holiday program is presented by the Show Choir of Carbondale Jr. High, led by Jessica Murphy. Meal is $8.00.

**Thank You:** A special thank you to those who participated in the Around the Table Carol Sing and children's program. Parents, children, youth, staff, and volunteers came together to create a wonderful evening. Thanks also to all who brought cookies to share. The celebration was a great reflection of God's abundance and a special reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. 

**Parish pulse As of December 5, 2017**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**
- 8:15 a.m. Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00 a.m. Daniel Plan, Room 403
- 10:15 a.m. Golden Yoga, Room 404

**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 10.

Best Wishes. Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Sincerely, Your Church Family

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Services**

**Lessons & Carols**

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. Bring you holiday spirit, ladders, and shop vacs. See you there!

**December 7, 2017**

**11:30 a.m. PrimeTimers Holiday Luncheon and Program**
- Fellowship Hall, $8 Lunch

**7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall**

Soup Supper sponsored by Investors Class Fellowship Hall

**9:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Soup Supper sponsored by Investors Class Fellowship Hall

**7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

**5:00 p.m. Golden Yoga, Room 404**

**5:45 p.m. Gentle Toning, Stretch, & Yoga, Room 404**

**6:00 p.m. Scouts Committee, Room 419**

**6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Rm. 409**

**7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

**9:00 p.m. Daniel Plan, Room 403**

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Upcoming Holiday Events

DECEMBER

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. Heritage Room

Tuesday 19 Morning Circle Christmas Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Human’s Restaurant  Bring a Friend!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 5:00 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!

Carbondale Mat Makers - The next meeting of the Carbondale Mat Makers will be January 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon at St. Andrews Episcopal. For those interested in meeting during the break to prepare bags for crocheting, please call Laura Depolo at 618-967-8986. We’ll meet here at FUMC in Room 207. Please bring a pair of scissors!

Once again we need more plastic bags for mat making. We can only use the grocery or Wal-Mart type bags.

Thank you to everyone for the tremendous help and support in 2017!!!

MARCH TO THE MANGER • THIS 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.

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.

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

DEC. 6 FINAL STORYTIME UNTIL BEGINNING OF 2018

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.
WAYS OF GIVING THAT COULD BE USED FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT OR THE BUILDING FUND

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMD) FROM IRA’S

Consider giving your RMD directly to your church. If you are 70.5 years or older, you must make minimum withdrawals from your IRA. However, you can meet your RMD by having your plan administrator send the amount (up to $100,000 annually) to your church. The withdrawal is NOT a charitable tax deduction, but the withdrawal is not listed as taxable income! You make a nice gift and avoid paying income tax on the withdrawal - - everyone benefits!

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 are studying Creed, What Christians Believe and Why. They meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308.

Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

Final meeting for 2017 is Wednesday, December 13.

Advent Music Vespers Programs
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December 10 Anita Hutton, piano
December 17 Anita Hutton, piano and Robert Weiss, trombone

O n Sunday morning, December 24, Christmas worship services will be at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

That evening on December 24, services will be held at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas Eve Family Worship service is at 5:00 p.m. and is geared toward children and families, and includes children and youth participation. Our candlelight service is at 7:00 p.m. The Nursery is available for all services.

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December 17 Anita Hutton, piano and Robert Weiss, trombone

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

O n Sunday morning, December 24, Christmas worship services will be at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

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