Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is our service of “Lessons and Carols” which is one of our major worship experiences we have throughout the year. It is important to remember that we will have a lot of guests with us for both the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. This means that we will need to welcome all of our guests and remember to be gracious when someone we don’t know is sitting in our seat. Also, for the 10:45 a.m. service in particular, parking will be challenging. So, you will want to make certain to get here early if you want a convenient parking space. It would be nice if those of us who are regular attenders and able to walk easily would choose to park away from the main entrance and allow our guests an easy spot to find. With all of this being said, we will have a great worship experience this coming Sunday, December 16!

Thus far, our “March to the Manger” offering received is $18,990. There will be more coming in as many persons mail their gifts in because they were out of town this past week. This is a great way to share in giving during the Christmas season. Many people will be helped because of your giving. Thank you for your generosity and may we continue to look for ways we can meet the needs of others.

As we approach this third Sunday of Advent, I cannot help but think just how quickly this year has gone. It always seems that once Fall comes things pick up speed and before you know it another year has passed by. As I reflect on the past year and think about a new year coming, I am reminded of experiences and persons that have had an impact on my life. Some of those are times of joy and some are times of hurt, sadness, and difficulty. But, all of these experiences have been a part of the past year’s journey and my life has been impacted by them.

There are many special relationships and experiences that we can neglect because we do not take the time to invest ourselves in them. Sometimes I tell myself, “Alan, take a deep breath, look around you at the people you know and care about, and soak in all the rich experiences that God has blessed your life with.” I don’t know about you, but I can get caught up in the trivial and not focus on the more important parts of my life. Sometimes, unless I put the brakes on, the trivial consumes my time and energy with not a lot left for things and people that really matter to me.

I hope the joy and blessings of people and experiences don’t slip by without you taking the time to soak them in this joyous season of the year.

See You Sunday,

Alan
IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

13 Thursday
Noon Deadline to bring in your poinsettias today—wrapped in foil along with memoriam
2:00 Poinsettias 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
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 Bengs and Anita Hutton, 4-hand piano
17 Monday
18 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403-NOT MEETING
(Daniel Plan will resume on Jan. 8)
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
11:30 UMW Morning Circle Christmas Brunch, Hunan’s
7:00 Scout Eagle Board, Rm. 308
19 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Nell Dorsey
Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
10:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm. 410—FINAL CLASS
10:00-11 Advent Study led by Pastor Alan, Rm. 410—FINAL CLASS

20 Thursday
4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:30 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
21 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
4:30/5:30 Christmas Caroling-meet at FUMC
22 Saturday
23 Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:15 Service of Worship
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Advent Study–Investors & Renew Classes—FINAL CLASS
10:45 Youth Super Church, Chapel
10:45 Worship Service
5:00 Music Vespers, Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.-organ
24 Monday Christmas Eve-Church Office Closed
5:00 Christmas Eve Family Service
7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 Special music by the Sanctuary Choir
25 Tuesday Christmas Day—Church Office Closed

Thank You: A huge thank you to Lianne Watson and Sandy Gobert. Both of these ladies are a tremendous help in making sure PrimeTime gets set up and cleaned up!! I was remiss in not thanking them at the December meeting—my apologies ladies. Thank you so much for your help each month and also to those who stick around afterward to clean up!! I do appreciate you! Lianne makes sure you all have treats even if she can’t be there!! Connie Rhein

Thank you for all of the kind words and expressions of appreciation from the congregation to celebrate my 20th anniversary at FUMC. It has been my honor and privilege to be in ministry with you, to share the stories of the Bible with your children and grandchildren, and to grow together in faith. God bless. Nelia

2019 Flower Chart: is ready for sign-ups. It is in the same location—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 or call in your church-related events held in January 2019 on the Office Calendar as soon as possible.

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

ASBURIAN PRINTING NOTICE:
Due to the Christmas holiday week ahead, the Asburian for December 25 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@fumcdale.org.

Disciples for Sunday, December 16, 2018
Welcome Center: 8:15 Deanna Deil; 10:45 Barb Kimmel
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Jan & Dick Verduin; 10:45 Elain Crane
Outside Greeters: Doug Bedient, Don Frey, Kathy Hollister December Nametags: Sheila Crippen
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.

Sunday, December 16, 2018
Services at 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>BUILDING FUND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEBTEDNESS</td>
<td>$141,956.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income $669,678.83
Expenses $682,940.13

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

December 16 Kara Benyas and Anita Hutton-4 hand piano
December 23 Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.-organ

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.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday 18 Morning Circle Christmas Brunch Location: Hunan’s Time: 11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 21 • 4:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Families in Progress continue the Christmas tradition! In honor and memory of Normagene Warner, retired pastor Bill Warner’s beloved wife.

At 4:30 p.m. we will load the bus and set out for our shut-in destinations.

At 5:30 p.m. for those of you who need a later start, we will pick up at the Grace United Methodist Church, 220 N. Tower Road in Carbondale for a second round of caroling.

Afterwards, we will have dinner and fellowship together at IV’s at 7 p.m.

We hope you can join us!

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!

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.
Honey Roasted Peanuts and Mixed Yogurt Raisins are now $5 per bag. Thank you for supporting the Youth Group.

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 16 Sunday School—"Mary and Elizabeth"

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.

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 contributions.

Thank you for your support of this mission effort. Your contributions have helped numerous local agencies serve those in need. Missions Committee

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