

Tidings

“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

Dear Church Family:

I breezed through my math classes in high school—I always had a good mind for numbers—until I hit trigonometry—then I quit! I just couldn’t figure it out. And as far as I know, I have not missed anything in the ministry where I needed those skills.

I also sailed through basic accounting and tax accounting in college when I finished my MBA. It took a while to keep those debits and credits straight, even when it didn’t make sense.

I have learned that numbers are important in the church too—they reflect progress or decline, growth or loss, increase or decrease, and trends in ministry. Churches go through seasons where they grow substantially—and times when they decline due to changes in the community, culture, and church attitude. Churches that are located in high population growth areas typically grow very rapidly—like Fairview Heights. Churches in downtown stable communities have a more difficult time growing and need to work even harder to maintain a certain level of membership, much less growth.

UUMC has bucked the trend of downtown declining churches. While our growth has not been through the roof, we have had almost 20 years of slow and steady growth in worship attendance, membership and budget. These are indicators of trends and must be watched carefully, with ministry adjustments to reflect change. I believe the leadership of this church has done a great job, and I want to commend all of you.

But, of course, we could do better. If those who only attend **once per month** attended worship twice a month, we would increase our average by approximately 14 per year. If those who attend **twice per month** attended three times a month, we would increase our average attendance by another 20 per year. Small changes, but big results. If every family would increase their

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Bible Study • Greeters
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Journey • Scripture and
Prayer for Youth

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Music Tidings

Third Wednesdays 5:30 pm
United Methodist Men
Krause Room

Every Thursday 9:00 am
Ruth Circle Quilters
Krause Room

July 26 through July 31
Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, August 5
3:30 to 6:30
Blood Mobile at UUMC

Sunday, August 9
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Kids-on-the-Go Swimming
Party at the home of
Jane and Thom Peters

Sunday, August 30
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Flu shots
in the Ziegler Room
Information for required
paper work will be available
from Parish Nurse Carol

REMEMBER

VBS BEGINS July 26 -- Register your children/grandchildren today-- Check the posters in the Welcome Center for needed items as well.

July 26- 30 Adult Bible Study with Pastor Jay during VBS -- Krause Room--selected chapters of "Is Jesus a Republican or Democrat?" 6:30 pm. Information bottom of next column.

Book Club will meet Tuesday, July 28 at 10:30 am in the Krause room to discuss *The Escape* by David Baldacci.

Blood Drive at UUMC -- Wednesday, August 5, 3:30 - 6:30 pm Register with Sheri in the church office as soon as possible. More information bottom p. 4.

Tidings

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laneclass@gmail.com

Zona Ludlum, Editor
Rev. Ed Weston, Senior Pastor

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL MEET AUGUST 12 IN MCKINLEY HALL

All the women of the church are invited to the August 12 meeting of the United Methodist Women. The **hot** item buzzing around in the media is more natural healing with oils. Learn about *Oils of the Bible and Their Uses Today*. The program will be led by Jenny Swartz.

Elizabeth Circle is the hostess. The general meeting begins at 10:30 in fellowship hall followed by a light meal. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Peters, 235-3804, or any UMW member.

UMW COLLECTS SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The United Methodist Women will be collecting school supplies on Sundays July 26 and August 2. If you would like to help with this project, please bring your donation and place it in the container in the Gathering Place marked "School Supplies." The supplies will be given to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and School District 118 schools. Your help will be appreciated.

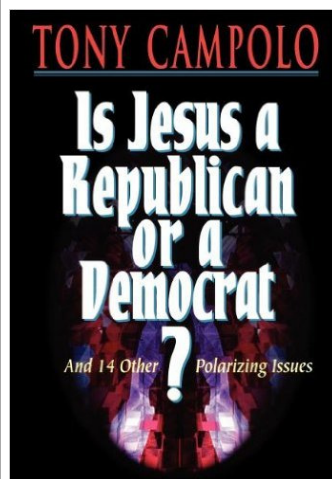
Lydia Circle will go to Four Fountains on August 14.

PASTOR JAY TO CONDUCT A BIBLE STUDY FOR FIVE EVENINGS DURING VBS

A study for adults will be offered during VBS week and led by Pastor Jay. For five evenings, **July 26 – 30, 6:30 to 7:30**, selected chapters of the book, *Is Jesus a Republican or a Democrat?* will be discussed.

The book takes on polarizing issues of the faith. The five issues that have been chosen for our study are:

Is Jesus a Republican or a Democrat?
What is Proper Behavior for a Christian?
God and Femininity
Was Jesus a Moderate?
God and the Poor



"Tony Campolo sounds a call for Christians to address controversial issues honestly and courageously, without bowing to political correctness or party lines. Clear thinking, straight shooting, and thoroughly committed to the relevance of the gospel in today's world, Tony penetrates our complacency with arguments that are sometimes unpredictable, sometimes infuriating, but always loving and never bland." (from the website)

We will meet in the Krause Meeting Room. You do not need to have read the book. Come join Pastor Jay.



Beacon PATHWAY TO HOPE

July 25, 2015
5K RUN/WALK
Kids FREE 1-Mile Fun Run
(ages 10 and under)

LARGEST METRO-EAST LIMBO LINE

Your church can register as a team and compete for the coveted "Church Team Attendance Trophy"! Currently First Presbyterian is the reigning champion. Can you topple them? The plot thickens . . .

Congregation members can register for \$30 per person.

This year, we are sponsoring a "Triple Header." If you register for the Mascoutah Meltdown on

July 4th, our Beacon 5K on July 25, and then the Tiki Trot on August 15, you will win a special medal!

Register online or download a registration form at:

www.beacon5k.com!

The proceeds from this 5K help BEACON

to help people avoid or escape homelessness! As our Church Partner, we are looking forward to hanging out with you at Beacon's Pathway to Hope 5K Run/Walk & FREE Kids 1-Mile Fun Run! . . . and don't forget that we also want you to help us make history by forming THE METRO EAST'S LARGEST LIMBO LINE!



UNION UMC GREETERS SCHEDULE

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP IN MCKINLEY HALL.

Date	Narthex	Welcome Center	East Main
July 26	Don and Mary Ann Steinkamp	Gary and Faith Lehr	Carl and Karen Buehler
Aug. 2	Robert and Linda Edwards	Joe and Karen Milton	Barbara Edwards Sue Davis
Aug. 9	Bill and Kay MacIntire	Jack and Bonnie Griffith	Jerry Sauerwein Kathy Underwood
Aug. 16	Debbie Fietsam	Don and Connie Stein	Tom Wade
Aug. 23	Naomi Davidson	Dennis and Kay Watt	David and Mary Donley
Aug. 30	Zona Ludlum	Nancy Weston	Phil and Barb Elmore

DO YOU NEED BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES?

We sell gift cards to Office Max/ Depot, Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, CVS . . . plus many more!

Our next order will be placed on Sunday, August 2. Please drop off your order and payment (check or exact cash) between 10:00-11:00 am at the Welcome Desk or drop off/mail to the church office during the week Thank you.

Union MOPS/MOMsNext



(Pastor's letter continued from front page)

giving for the remainder of this year by only \$1, we would have another \$10,000 for ministry, or the equivalent of one's month extra debt payment.

We are not JUST about numbers for numbers sake, but they do represent lives being touched and offered to the gospel of Jesus Christ; the budget represents ministry that occurs locally and across the globe. So, numbers are important!

Think how you can be a part of the growth of UUMC—we are trying to **develop followers of Jesus Christ to serve the world.**

Pastor Ed



JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP
Sunday Evenings – 6:00 – 7:30 –
McKinley Hall

July 26 Youth Group – Discussion:
 Old Testament and Game Night



VBS
 July 26
 through
 July 31

BLESSING
of the
BACKPACKS
August 19
Wonderfully made
and dearly loved.
 9:00, 10:15 & 11:15 worship

OUR YOUTH ON THEIR MISSION TRIP: TESTIMONY FROM JANE
 I recently had the pleasure of accompanying our youth on a work mission trip to Springfield, Illinois. I have to give a "shout out" to all of them. They are so much fun to talk to on these trips and it really makes me beam inside when I watch them in action.

They are so respectful of the adults and of all the other campers. Of course there are incidents that make you give a little tip of the eyebrow, but life is like that and they make the best of it and move forward. Parents, be proud of the young adults that are in your house. They are a true delight!

Love to them all,
Jane Peters

UNION UMC FIRST TIME VISITOR LIST FOR JUL-SEP

<i>Primary Team</i>	<i>Alternate Team</i>
July 26 Jerry and Lisa Koerkenmeier	Kent and Susan McVety
Aug 2 Dick Frette	Mike and Julie Callaghan
Aug 9 John & Linda Gray	Barb Edwards and Sue Davis
Aug 16 Kent and Susan McVety	Jerry and Lisa Koerkenmeier
Aug 23 Dan and Laura Nollman	John and Linda Gray
Aug 30 Barb Edwards and Sue Davis	Don and Connie Stein
Sept 6 Mike and Julie Callaghan	John and Linda Gray
Sept 13 Don and Connie Stein	Dick Frette

Turkey Hill Grange Presents

Based on the children's book, 1938 Newberry Award Winner

Mr Popper's Penguins

Bring Your Children and Grand-children!



Give them a summer treat. Help them find the book on-line. They can read it before they see the show!

Matinees on Saturday and Sunday, August 1 & 2 at 2:00 pm
 Show approximately 90 minutes



PARISH NURSE NOTES: HEALTHY BODY—HEALTHY BRAIN

Folks are telling us that there is a strong correlation between a healthy body and a healthy brain. I have written often about the importance of exercise and a healthy diet. I realize we all would like a healthy brain with that healthy body. Some of you practice “brain teasers” to exercise your brain. You may use crossword puzzles or Suduko from the newspapers. There are other things that can present us with mental challenges. The experts are telling us that the key to maintaining a healthy brain is also to have a healthy body.

I used to live in Oklahoma City and there is a doctor there, Mary Ann Dauman, who is the chairperson of the American Stroke Association Advisory Committee. Recently she said, “We’re just now starting to get people to recognize that eating right, exercising and maintaining your health can play into the graceful aging of your brain. Even our Alzheimer’s Associations are teaching us ways to love our brains. At this time, as far as I know, medical science has not found a definitive way to stop the progression of dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, we do know that there are approximately forty-seven million people worldwide living with dementia. This is nearly unbelievable . . . they expect the number to triple in the next thirty-five years.

We must take our own steps to maintain our abilities to think, write, and problem solve. We need to practice the exercise of our brains which requires us to remember and work to be the “best me” that each of us can be.

As you ponder, think of the things you can do and the things you have some difficulty doing. Perhaps you might make a list which will give you something personal to look at daily. Think about ways you may practice to better achieve that which is becoming difficult. (It’s a fallacy to think that as you get older you no longer have to practice . . .because you do!) You’re not in Heaven yet! As the old saying goes, “If you don’t use it . . .you lose it.” This is important for you to ponder and to work on. Your age doesn’t make a difference. Attitude is most important.

More on this topic next time. Okay? Help ideas and blessings!

Your Parish Nurse,

Carol



KIDS-ON-THE-GO SUMMER ACTIVITIES

(Grades First through Fourth) KIDS-ON-THE-GO (Grades first through fourth) – On Sunday, August 9, we will have a swimming party at Jane and Thom Peters’ home from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please wear your swimsuit and

bring a towel. We will be having hotdogs, chips, dessert and drinks. We will welcome our new first graders and say good bye to our fourth graders. Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 5.

PROMOTION SUNDAY AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS WILL BE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 19. PASTOR ED WILL BE BLESSING THE BACKPACKS AT THE 9:00, 10:15 AND 11:15 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICES.



**FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE
AUG. 30 AT 10:00 AM**

Flu shots will be given early this year in the Ziegler Room August 30, 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Information for required paper work will be available from Parish Nurse Carol at a later date.



**JOURNEY UMC
SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP –
Sunday Evenings – 6:30 – 7:30 -
Journey Church
July 26 – Youth Group**

**NO COLLEGE AGE GROUP
Meetings at Journey in July**

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS FOR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS

One of the best ways you can prepare your children this year as they go back to school is through prayer. And praying Scripture is one of the most powerful ways to pray. Here are five back to school prayers you can pray for your kids and grandkids:

Prayers for Peace (Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 5:1).

Lord, I pray that this year my kids (grandkids) will experience the peace of God that exceeds all understanding. I pray they will not worry about things they cannot control, but that You will guard their hearts and minds and keep them trusting in You. I pray they will not only enjoy the peace of God, but peace with God. I pray they will develop a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving as they look to You daily for their needs. I pray that You will give them the capacity for joy that bubbles up from Your peace.

Prayers for Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 46:1; John 17:15; Psalm 91)

Lord, I pray Your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over my kids (grandkids). Keep evil far from them, and help them to trust You as their refuge and strength. I pray You will guard their minds and grant them discernment to recognize truth. I pray You will make them

(continued first column, p.8)

BACK TO SCHOOL THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLAS AND ALL LOVING ADULTS BY LYNN DOVE

For the first time in twenty-five years, I am not walking a child to a school bus, or fretting over school lunches, or monitoring dress code infractions, or ensuring my child is adequately prepared for the first day of school. It comes with having an Empty Nest. However, most of my friends (and in a couple of years, my daughter) will be spending this first day of school preparing their children by *planning, preparing* and then perhaps *pushing* their children out the door to start another school year. Parents, have you also thought that to adequately prepare your children and **YOU** for that first day back that you first turn to scripture? Might make the day go by a little easier. Just sayin' :)

John 14:26 "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

1 Samuel 16:7 "... The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Corinthians 10:13 And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Proverbs 15:5 "A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence."

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to

(continued third column p. 7)

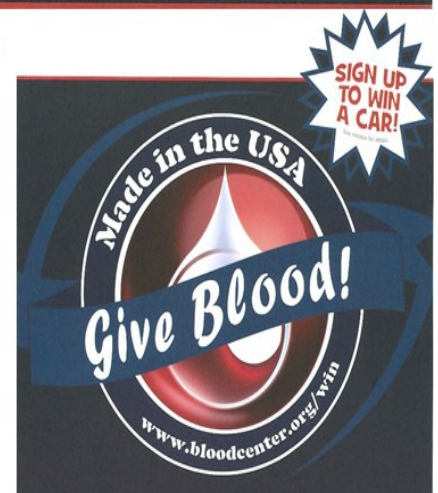
BLOOD DRIVE

Union United Methodist Church

Wednesday, August 5 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Krause Meeting Room 721 E Main Street

Those wishing to donate should contact the church office at 233-6375 or online at www.bloodcenterimpact.org. You may donate anytime convenient to you from 3:30 to 6:30, August 5.





JOURNEY UMC CHURCH
PASTOR HOLLY WOOD
900 NORTH STATE STREET
FREEBURG, ILLINOIS 618-971-7382

JOURNEY UMC

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FREEBURG

What a joy it was to have Pastor Jay visit Journey and commission the youth and adults from Journey and Union for their mission trip to Springfield, Illinois on July 12!

THANK YOU to Molly Johnson and Lindsey Mank for serving our children in Gospel Project on Sunday mornings. We will miss you! Molly recently completed studies to become a respiratory therapist and was hired for her dream job at Children's Hospital in St Louis. Lindsey will be going away to college soon. Congrats!

MOVIE PREVIEW ALERT. . . From the makers of *Courageous*, *Fireproof*, *Facing the Giants*, & *Flywheel* comes a timely new movie *War Room*. It's all about prayer and features some familiar faces from movies past and some of our favorite Bible study teachers: TC Stallings, Priscilla Shirer, Beth Moore, Alex Kendrick, and more. The movie opens in theaters August 28, but our local Christian bookstore has bought a preview night at Wehrenberg Theater in O'Fallon on Thursday, August 27. Tickets are \$11 and are available for purchase now from Words of Wisdom, 4200 N Illinois St, Swansea, Illinois. My husband and I plan to be there and hope many will join us. It's so nice to be able to go see a movie and not be worried about bad language or other things I'd rather not see. Let's support this!

At times I get frustrated with my life – things aren't happening the way I want them to or as fast as I'd like them to go. So I was fascinated last week to see that after 9 ½ years, NASA's New Horizons was reaching its goal of passing Pluto. I started thinking about all that's happened in my life in the past 9 ½ years – most of it good, including blessings in all areas of my life. I won't bore you with that list, because I've written about many of those things already.

But let's just think for a moment what has happened at Journey in the past 9 ½ years . . . Oh! It didn't even exist 9 ½ years ago! On January 19, 2006, when New Horizons launched, Journey might have been an idea in Pastor Ed's mind. I remember his mentioning it once during a Staff-Parish meeting. I've forgotten precisely when the weekly Bible study started in Freeburg, but the first worship service was December of 2007. As I write this on a summer Sunday, we just had over ninety people present – many of them tired mission trip survivors who didn't want to miss being with their church family. Wow! So while New Horizons has been journeying through space, we have been on an exciting journey of building a new church in a new area. We didn't have to go so far as Pluto to find our own new horizon but it is even more exciting and rewarding.

Cathy O.

WHEN LIFE IS ROUGH

PRAY

WHEN LIFE IS GREAT

PRAY

WWW.APELSTMS.COM

(Back to School Thoughts continued from p. 6)

God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Psalms 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid."





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CONGRATULATIONS TO AARON ECKERT . . .



one of three finalists chosen to compete in the International Trombone Festival (JJ. Johnson Jazz Division) in Valencia Spain in July. "You have made your church family proud of you, **Aaron.**"



(Back to School Prayers continued from p. 6)

strong and courageous in the presence of danger, recognizing that You have overcome and will set right all injustice and wrong one day. Help them to find rest in Your shadow, as they live in the spiritual shelter You provide for them. Let them know that the only safest place is in Jesus, and that their home on earth is temporary.



MUSIC TIDINGS

I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; With my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations.

For thy steadfast love was established for ever, thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

Psalms 89: 1-2

Sunday, July 26

9:00 am Special Music by Natalie Gravois

Rev. Weston's sermon: "Life Changers: Simon to Peter"
Matthew 16:13-20

10:15 am Rev. Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music

11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary

Sunday, August 2

9:00 am Special Music by the children of VBS and a "Ladies Trio" (Mary MacIntire, Katherine Eckert and Rachel Walker)

"Shine On Us" and "People Need the Lord"

Rev. Weston's sermon: "Life Changers: Saul to Paul" Acts 9:1-19

10:15 am Rev. Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music

11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary and VBS Children



Friday, July 31 at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Eckert's on Rt. 15

"A Salute to Broadway"

Songs from the Broadway Musical Stage with Jim and Carole Eckert, Michael and Judy Woodruff, Gail Long and combo. Free. Bring a lawn chair.