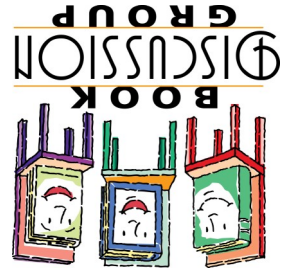


March
 Spirit
 Alive is due
 in the church
 office by
 February 20!

Relay for Life Soup Fundraiser
 February 13th, 10:00 AM
 Fellowship Hall
 Soup Buyers & Soup Donors are
 needed, contact Kristy Ehrler or Rick
 Gaska if you can donate soup.
 Please support your Relay team in
 their fight against cancer.



The book club will be meeting on Monday, February 7th at 4:30 pm at the church. We will be discussing the book "This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a remarkable love by Africa's first woman president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf—Africa's 'Iron Lady'". All are invited to join the discussion.



First United Methodist Church
 118 West Jackson Street
 Morris, IL 60450
 815-942-0809

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Spirit Alive

February 2011

Staff

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Scott@morrisumc.com

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Deb@morrisumc.com

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Judy Burns

Judy@morrisumc.com

Church Secretary

Julie Pierce

Julie@morrisumc.com

Choir Director

Mary MacAdams

Organist

Cheryle Larson

Custodian

Don Kundert

Preschool Director

Lori Woodard

preschool@morrisumc.com

Sunday School

Superintendent

sundayschool@morrisumc.com

Children's Choir

Director

Leann Hill

Hand Bell Choir Director

Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Dear Friends:

On the weekend of **February 12th and 13th** Rev. Rich Rubietta will be leading our worship services. Many of you may remember Rich from when he served here as Associate Pastor from 1988-92. Since 2000 he has had the title of Conference Evangelist and is appointed to **Abounding Ministries**. Rich calls himself a "Musician-ary" helping congregations redevelop and rediscover their voice in worship. He is a modern-day circuit rider crisscrossing the Midwest each week, introducing creative uses of music in Worship Services, School Assemblies, Workshops, Youth events and Retreats.

His worship services are high-energy, interactive experiences which include sing-alongs, original scripture-based songs (many of which he, himself has written) and many stories about the faith.

Rich has released 4 CDs, including award-winning *Room 4U & Me* for children and the young at heart. His wife, Jane, has written 11 books including *Quiet Places* which is on the United Methodist Women's Recommended Reading List. Jane is an internationally known speaker who travels to churches, women's groups, conferences and retreats. Their CDs and books will be available at a Resource Table in the narthex throughout the weekend.

Also, as a Conference Evangelist Rich does not receive any salary or benefits from the Conference. **Abounding Ministries** is financed through support from individuals and churches where their services are offered. We will be receiving a Love Offering during the services as well as provide information regarding the opportunity for each of us to support this ministry on an ongoing basis.

I hope that you can be with us for these exciting worship services on Saturday, February 12th at 6pm and Sunday, February 13th at 9am. Invite your friends and neighbors for this special event in the life of our congregation.

For more information about Rich and Abounding Ministries you can go to www.Abounding.org.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

News of the flock

Hospitalized

Gene White

Dieter Holzinger

Wendy Eason

Betty Davies

Dorothy Hedenschoug

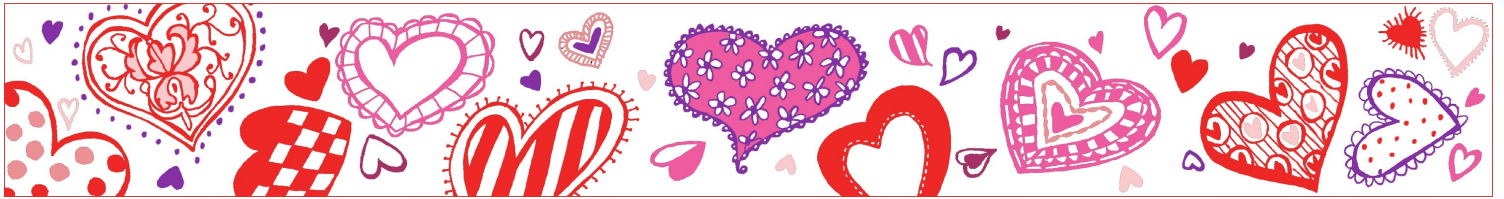
The beginning of life in faith . . .

We celebrate the baptism of Arik Hanson Burkard, son of Martin & Elizabeth Burkard. Grandparents are John & Ellen Hanson.

The beginning of life eternal . . .

Remember the following in your prayers . . .

- ~ Muff & Marilyn Larson and family on the death of his sister, Evelyn Davidson
- ~ Paula Steffen and family on the passing of her father, Dwight Irwin
- ~ Sara Seidler on the death of her brother, Jeffrey Seidler
- ~ Brian & Cori McTague and family on the passing of her grandmother, Betty Larson-Johnson
- ~ Eric & Jeanne Washburn and family on the death of her grandmother, Charlene Bieschke
- ~ John Callahan on the passing of his mother, Stella Callahan



Dear Friends,

It is with sincere thanks that I write to say how much I have appreciated all of the love and support from the entire congregation over the past six months. In the midst of life's events, this is a very overdue thank you I do realize. From your prayers, meals and visits during both Preston's hospitalization and mine in the fall . . . to your hugs, smiles and friendships since. I am also most grateful to the most generous and unselfish moving and packing crew in the world! So many thanks for moving me in the most bitter cold weekend in December, just one week before

Christmas. I cannot forget about all of my fellow God's Girls . . . each one of you are a blessing and inspiration in my life, what a wonderful circle to be a part of. Your support, help, friendship and guidance has really made me feel whole again and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Angela Meadows (& Preston, too)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much to Pastor Scott and Pastor Deb for your visits and prayers. I appreciate all those that sent cards, flowers, food, visited and stopped John to check on me. Thank you everyone for your prayers and concerns. I was truly blessed. A special thank you to Pam Butler for her excellent care.

Judy Claypool

Dear Friends at First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your help with our Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign! To date, we have raised over \$22,615, which includes the three gold coins that were donated during the first week of the collection and contributed \$2,100 to the total. It also includes a \$200 donation from a wedding band that was donated. Your organization's efforts contributed \$3,008.57 to that total.

Thank you to Andy Larson for coordinating the bell ringers from your organization and to all those who donated their time ringing bells. I hope the experience was a positive one for all involved. Thanks to your members for giving of themselves to help our neighbors in need. We look forward to working with you again next year!

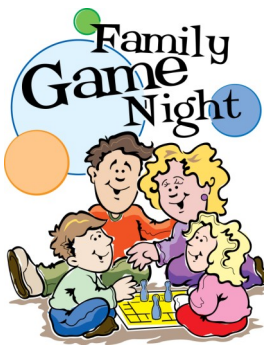
Denise Gaska, Kettle Coordinator & Executive Director of We Care of Grundy County



Upcoming Events

February 6	4:30—6:00 pm	At the Church	Jr. High
February 13	4:30—6:00 pm	At the Church	
February 25—27	5:00 pm Friday—1:00 pm Sunday Trip to Midwest Distribution Center		

Sr. High	February 5	7:00—9:00 pm	Church Kitchen
		Super Bowl Sandwich Preparation	
	February 6	8:30 am—???	Church Kitchen
		Sandwich Making & Delivery	
February 13	7:00—8:30 pm	At the Church	
	Evening Gathering		
February 27	9:00 am	At the Church	
	Pack the Pew Sunday		
	7:00—9:00 pm	At the Church	
	ASP Mission Night		



Remember how much fun it is to sit around the table with your family or friends, munch on some snacks, and play board games together? And how about if you were told you could wear your pajamas if you wanted?

Fellowship Vision Team has planned a Friday night of fun. Come to fellowship hall at 6:30 pm on Friday, February 11. Bring your family or friends or come alone; there is a place at a game table for you. If you or the kids want, pajamas are acceptable attire but not necessary if you feel a little funny about wearing them. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Also little ones may bring sleeping bags in which to get cozy while watching a Disney movie that will be shown for those who are too young for board games.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the east door entrance so we have some idea of how many games, tables and snacks to have ready for you. We will see you on Friday, February 11 at 6:30 pm—maybe in your PJ's

UMW Circle News

- ~ Executive Board: Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 pm at the church
- ~ Aurora District Officers Training, Saturday, February 5 from 9:00 am—noon at Channahon Methodist Church
- ~ Wednesday Circle: Wednesday, February 16 at 12:30 pm at Turtle's
- ~ Martha Circle: Thursday, February 17 at 9:00 am at the church
- ~ God's Girls: Thursday, February 17 at 7:00 pm at the church
- ~ Rebekah Circle: Thursday, February 17 at Fay Male's home
- ~ Monday Circle: Monday, February 21 at 12:30 pm at the church



HANDBELL CHOIR

A new sound will be added to the handbell choir soon. Hand chimes have been ordered and will be worked into songs that are being practiced.

New members are still needed. Come to practice on Wednesday nights in fellowship hall at 5:00 pm.



Meals for the Hungry

Check your calendars! April 28, June 23, August 25 and December 22 are 2011 dates that First United Methodist Church is serving St. Vincent's Table. Sign up sheets will be posted a month before the dates. Help will be needed for food, serving and cleanup. If you have questions, please call Millie Dyer 815-942-5068.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care. If you or someone you know are going through a difficult time, whatever it may be our Stephen Ministers can be there to help support you with prayers and Christian care giving. We have been trained to listen with out judging and with complete confidentiality. God is the cure giver, we are the care giver. Please call Pastor Deb or Joyce Redford for more information.



Word from Finance



Your faithful support has again enabled us to complete the year with all bills paid, Conference Apportionments paid in full, and allowed us for the second year in a row to make a small additional gift to the Northern Illinois Conference to help support our connectinal ministries. We are also again a Rainbow Mission Covenantal church!

Since we changed our annual stewardship campaign from fall to spring last year, your current commitments run through March 31, 2011. This means that you will be hearing more from us beginning in February, and we'll be kicking off our new campaign on the weekend of March 5 & 6. We thank you for all that you have done, and hope that you are able to continue your generous support in the coming year.

Charles Butts



In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Preschool Board of Directors would like to share why we love our teacher! Our Director, Mrs. Woodard has given 6 dedicated and enthusiastic years of service, singing songs, tirelessly teaching the alphabet in creative ways and with impeccable professionalism! Mrs. Hall has been the world's largest 4 year-old for 14 years now! She greets the children with her sunny smile and talks with them in a genuinely accepting way! She's been making play dough from scratch for so long she can do it with one arm tied behind her back! Mrs. Hill, we love that you stepped in to replace Mrs. Hess who left in December. We love the added enthusiasm and expertise you have brought back to our program! Teachers, your hard work melts are hearts!
Happy Valentine's Day! Your Board of Directors.



The church's Prayer Chain is being redone for 2011. If you would like to be part of this important ministry please call the church office or Marge Olson 815-942-0499.



Saturday, February 5

8:00 am—Noon

Fellowship Hall

Sign up on the bulletin board

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Donna Babcock | 9 Kay Bonneur | 21 John Duvall |
| Taite Burns | Bill Burnham, Jr. | Jean McKinney |
| Shirley Casper | Shelley Maubach | Christopher Turas |
| Gregg Gordon | 10 Margaret Sue Light | 22 Matthew Dinelli |
| Sue Hall | Marissa Olson | Garland Love |
| Janis Hedenschoug | 12 Lianne Leach-Moyer | 23 Alice Alperstein |
| Shane McTague | Nancy Martin | Mary Davis |
| 2 Kari Jager | 13 Peter Karras | Kathy Slater |
| Nancy Norman | 14 Craig Schluntz | 24 AJ Larson |
| James Sprole | Katie Wolz | Michael McDonald |
| 4 Calen Close | 16 Helen Brehm | Robert Olson |
| Sheldon Davis | Lucas Collins | 25 Diane Lincoln |
| 5 Eleanor Anderson | 17 Charlotte Brown | Earl Slater |
| Gayle Green | Gordon Lear | 26 Nicholas Miller |
| 6 Debra Packley | Elizabeth Nadess | 27 Leon Bonneur |
| Marthalyn Smith | Cale Ripsch | John Brady |
| Kaitlyn Washburn | Corey Schoenwald | Patti Johnson |
| 7 Richard Close, Jr. | 18 Beverly Sereno | Pamela Milton |
| Marissa Darlington | 19 Betty Davies | Verna Ripsch |
| Alice Earling | Oscar Olson | 28 Thomas Hall |
| Grace Peacock | 20 Cindy Fahey | |
| Tim Thompson | Hunter Greve | |
| 8 Edward Kennedy | Kristin Lucas | |
| Kyle Monk | Michelle Redford | |

