

March Spirit Alive
due in the
church office
by February 20.



**Furniture
needed**

Grundy Three Rivers Habitat for Humanity is looking for a good used executive desk and rolling chair along with some reception room chairs. Please call Aaronda Murphy-Neuwirth at 815-941-4699 if you have anything that could be used in an office.



Once again this year we will be holding a series of Lenten Luncheons hosted by various churches in the community. This is an opportunity to be in fellowship with friends and neighbors from other congregations. Each gathering will consist of a simple soup and sandwich lunch and a meditation by the host pastor. This year's meditations will be based on The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). The luncheons will be held on WEDNESDAYS from Noon—1:00 pm. We will be hosting the first luncheon on FEBRUARY 29. The rest of the schedule will be announced later.

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

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FEBRUARY



Spirit Alive

February 2012

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Leann Hill

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Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Dear Friends:

What would you do with an extra 24 hours? Would you use it to get caught up on things you never seem to have time for? Or would you start something new—perhaps something you never thought you'd do?

Well—in a sense we are being given an extra day this year. It's leap year and so we have February 29th at the end of this month.

Now I know that for most of us Feb. 29 will be just another day. This year it falls on a Wednesday. Most of us will go to work or school as usual. Many of us will come to church that evening for choir rehearsal, Bible study, prayer shawl ministry, etc. We will make jokes about those whose birthdays fall on that day: Like those who have lived for 50 years but have only had 12 birthdays—not yet a teenager!!

The passage of time is a part of God's plan. Time only goes one direction—FORWARD. If you squander it you can never get it back. In fact, many times it takes us longer to catch up after wasting time than it would if we had used it wisely in the first place.

Time has a rhythm set by God. The rhythm of day and night: the need to sleep to get refreshed and rejuvenated each night. We know what happens when we try to do too much, stay up too long, or don't get enough sleep for our bodies to recharge. Our bodies tell us, one way or another, when we get out of this rhythm of day and night. God has made us that way.

There is also the rhythm of the week. God tells us in His Law and reminds us of the need for SABBATH. One day each week devoted to worship and rest. (It is probably the one Commandment that is broken more often than any other.)

God has also set the rhythm of the months, seasons, and years. Each of them is important for the efficiency of God's Creation. Since most of us are no longer tied to the land as farmers, and since we have the modern conveniences of electricity to light the dark night and heating and air conditioning to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer, we have forgotten the importance of the seasons. Days, weeks, months, years all go by one after the other. And we get stuck in the sameness of it all.

If you do nothing else on Leap Day (Feb. 29th), take a few moments that day to consider the RHYTHM OF TIME as another of the wonderful gifts of God.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

News of the flock

Hospitalized . . .

Bessie Hexdall

Olivia Magers

Lois Hall

Bill Earling

The beginning of life in faith . . .

Baptized January 22 was Olivia Ann Hoffman, daughter of Danny & Molly Hoffman. Grandparents are Greg & Kathie Stewart.

The beginning of life eternal . . .

Remember the following as they deal with the loss of a loved one:

- ~ The family of Margery Anderson.
- ~ Jerry & Terri Olson and family on the death of her mother, "Doris" Gillis.
- ~ Millie Dyer and family on the passing of her husband, Hank.
- ~ Jean McKinney and family on the death of her mother, Edith Pacholke.
- ~ Dean Tambling and family on the death of his grandfather, George Olson.



We'll be hosting a series of classes for people who are interested in finding out more about our church. While the classes are primarily for people who have some interest in joining the church, you're not obligated to join if you attend the classes. The classes will be held during the Sunday School hour (10:30 – 11:30 am) on February 5, 12 and 19. Please RSVP to the church office, 815.942.0809.



A heartfelt thank you for your kind thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls that I received while I was recuperating from eye surgery. I am truly blessed to be a part of our caring church family.

Selma Finch

Thank you to my church family for all the wonderful cards and calls at the time of my mother's passing.

Jean McKinney

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, kind deeds and flowers during my hospitalization and recuperation. A special thank you to Pastor Scott for his support of my family on the day of my surgery. And to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl.

George Dare

Dear Friends at First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your help with our Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign! This year was a record breaker! We raised over \$26,700, which represents an 18% increase over last year's total and a 15% increase over our previous record of \$23,149 set in 2008. We again received three gold coins that were donated on Dec. 5 and contributed \$2,700 to the total.

First United Methodist Church raised a total of \$1,942.78. Thank you to all those who donated their time ringing bells. I hope the experience was a positive one for all involved.

Sincerely,

Denise Gaska, Executive Director, We Care of Grundy County



Word from Finance



Our annual Stewardship drive will begin later this month with this year's theme being Celebration. The theme is meant to not only celebrate all that has happened at First United Methodist Church over the last 170 years but also to show how we continue to grow in spirit, faith and service to ourselves, our church and our community.

Your generous contributions over this past year have allowed us to be current with all of our bills, to make an additional contribution to our Conference and to be a Rainbow Covenant church.

When you receive the Stewardship campaign packet, please give thanks for all that you have been able to give in the past and give thoughtful consideration to this year's commitment.

Mark Fahey



After church on Sunday, February 19, come on down to fellowship hall and buy a delicious bowl of soup for lunch and support our Relay for Life Team.

**Relay for Life
Soup Sale**



Plan to enjoy a slice of your favorite pie on Sunday, February 12 in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service. "Sweetie Pie Sunday" is coming and we need pies. Drop off your pie in the church kitchen before worship so the Fellowship Team can prepare them to be served. Then come on down after church and enjoy!

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Donna Babcock | 9 Kay Bonneur | 21 Jean McKinney |
| Taite Burns | Bill Burnham | Christopher Turas |
| Gregg Gordon | Amy Hall | 22 Matthew Dinelli |
| Sue Hall | Shelley Maubach | Charles Greenway |
| Janis Hedenschoug | 10 Margaret Sue Light | Garland Love |
| Shane McTague | Marissa Olson | 23 Alice Alperstein |
| 2 Kari Jager | 12 Gianna Eber | Mary Davis |
| Nancy Norman | Lianne Leach-Moyer | Megan Moses |
| James Sprole | Nancy Martin | Kathy Slater |
| 3 Pete Brummel | 13 Peter Karras | 24 AJ Larson |
| Amie Sallese | 14 Craig Schluntz | Michael McDonald |
| 4 Calen Close | Katie Wolz | Logan Mueller |
| Sheldon Davis | 16 Lucas Collins | Bob Olson |
| 5 Eleanor Anderson | 17 Charlotte Brown | 25 Diane Lincoln |
| Gayle Green | Gordon Lear | Earl Slater |
| 6 Terri Baranski | Elizabeth Nadess | 26 Nicholas Miller |
| Debra Packley | Cale Ripsch | 27 Leon Bonneur |
| Mathalyn Smith | Corey Schoenwald | John Brady |
| Kaitlyn Washburn | 18 Beverly Sereno | Patti Johnson |
| 7 Richard Close | 19 Betty Davis | Pamela Milton |
| Marissa Darlington | Dan Olson | Verna Ripsch |
| Alice Earling | 20 Cindy Fahey | 28 Tom Hall |
| Grace Peacock | Hunter Greve | |
| Tim Thompson | Eileen Leach | |
| 8 Ed Kennedy | Kristin Lucas | |
| Kyle Monk | Michelle Redford | |



Upcoming Events

Jr. High	February 5	Gathering At the Church	4:30—6:00 pm
	February 17-19	Mission Trip Midwest Distribution Center in Chatham, IL	

Sr. High	February 4	Super Bowl Sub Prep At the Church	7:00—9:00 pm
	February 5	Super Bowl Sub Making & Delivery At the Church	8:30 am
	February 12	Evening Gathering At the Church	7:00—8:30 pm
	February 26	Pack the Pew Come to Church	9:00 am
	February 26	Mission Night—ASP At the Church	7:00—9:00 pm



The Book Club will be meeting on Monday, March 5 at 4:30 pm in the church library to discuss “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot. All are invited to join the discussion.


 Fellowship Committee wants everyone 
 to mark their calendars for “Cabin Fever 
 Frenzy” - Sunday, March 4 at 4:00 pm. 
 We will begin with board games for all 
 ages and end with a potluck dinner. 

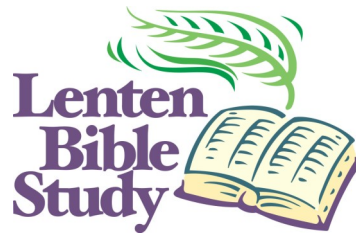

UMW Circle News

- ~ Executive Board is Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 pm at the church
- ~ Wednesday Circle is Wednesday, February 15 at 12:30 pm at the church
- ~ Martha Circle is Thursday, February 16 at 9:00 am at the church
- ~ God’s Girls is Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm at the church
- ~ Rebekah Circle is Thursday, February 16 at 7:15 pm at Kathy Goodale’s
- ~ Monday Circle is Monday, February 20 at 12:30 pm at the church

Aurora District Leadership Breakfast and Training Meeting: February 11 at Grace UMC in Naperville.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Our Lay Leadership Committee is looking for a volunteer for the position of Communications Director. This person will help our church enhance and expand communications of church activities to our members and the larger community. They will solicit information from groups and committees in the church and then promote the activities through our bulletin and newsletter, website and Facebook, newspaper and radio, etc. If you have an interest in helping our congregation through this important new position please speak to Pastor Scott.



Pastor Scott will be leading a Lenten Study during the Sunday School hour (10:30-11:30 am) beginning February 26. The study will be entitled

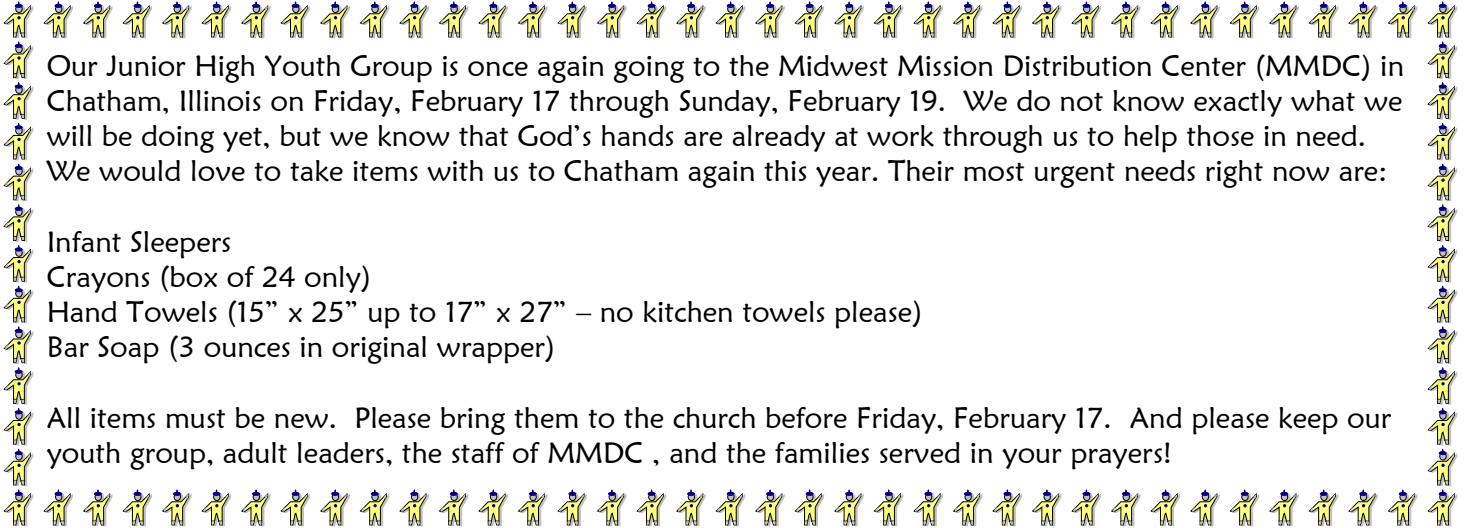
“Journey to Hope”. We will journey with Jesus from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week and celebrate the HOPE for us all through the Resurrection. Please join us in Room 103 each Sunday in Lent for this six-week course.

preschool registration



2012-2013 Preschool Registration

Registration for our 2012-2013 preschool classes will be held in February. We offer two 4 year old classes: MWF from 9:00—11:30 am and TTH from 12:30—3:00 pm. We also offer two 3 year old classes: MW from 1:00—3:00 pm and TTH from 9:00—11:00 am. Current students may register beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 9. Church members and former preschool families may register from 8:00—9:00 am on Thursday, February 16. We will hold a preschool open house and general public registration on Monday, February 27 at 6:00 pm. Please call Lori Woodard (815-942-0809) with any questions concerning registration.



Our Junior High Youth Group is once again going to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Chatham, Illinois on Friday, February 17 through Sunday, February 19. We do not know exactly what we will be doing yet, but we know that God’s hands are already at work through us to help those in need. We would love to take items with us to Chatham again this year. Their most urgent needs right now are:

- Infant Sleepers
- Crayons (box of 24 only)
- Hand Towels (15” x 25” up to 17” x 27” – no kitchen towels please)
- Bar Soap (3 ounces in original wrapper)

All items must be new. Please bring them to the church before Friday, February 17. And please keep our youth group, adult leaders, the staff of MMDC , and the families served in your prayers!

VISION TEAM OPENINGS

We have openings on three of our Vision Teams. The Fellowship Vision Team plans social events for the members of our congregation. Examples are: Turkey Supper, Deck the Halls, Lenten Suppers, Just Desserts. The Celebration Vision Team helps to put together our weekly worship services as well as plans special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. Membership Care welcomes visitors to worship services, keeps connected with those you have been absent and delivers Welcome bags to 1st time visitors. If you would be interested in serving on one of these Teams, please speak to Pastor Scott.



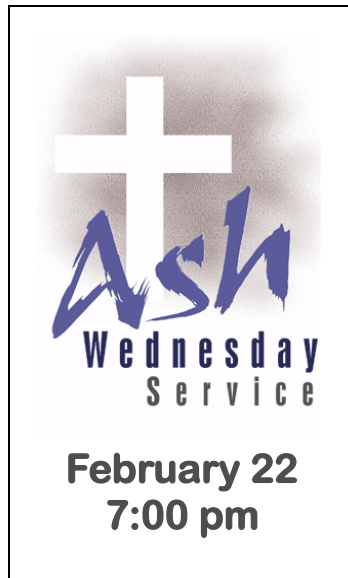
NEW PICTORAL DIRECTORY COMING

Photographers from Life Touch will be here to take family photographs for a new church directory on March 7—10 and March 21-22. Now is the time to make your appointment so that your family can be included. There are two ways to make appointments. 1) Look for the table in the narthex before and after weekend worship services. OR 2) Go online anytime to make an appointment. Go to our church website www.morrisumc.com and click on the PHOTO DIRECTORY LINK in the lower left-hand column. That link will take you directly to the Life Touch site and will walk you through all of your options for making an appointment. A reminder: Each family receives on free 8X10 portrait and one free directory for being photographed.



ATTN: ALL BLOOD DONORS

Heartland Blood Centers has changed the day of the week for donating blood because of the low participation. Our next Blood Drive will be on Monday, Feb. 13 from 3:00-7:00 pm in fellowship hall. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.



Sign up on the bulletin board to help provide meals on Tuesday evenings for our PADS residents.

MUSIC NOTES FEBRUARY 2012

Easter is coming, Easter is coming....., "WOW", I can't believe I just wrote that. Wasn't Christmas just a day or so ago? Where did the time go? Well ready or not, ready or not? Of course I'm ready, ready and excited to get started. Rehearsals for this year's Easter Cantata will begin this coming Wednesday, February 1st at 7pm in the Sanctuary at First United Methodist Church of Morris.

In actual fact, this year we will be presenting an Easter "Celebration" not an actual Cantata. This is something new, we won't be "telling" the story of Easter, we will be "Celebrating" the story of Easter. This arrangement has a wide range of music from quiet and worshipful moments to lively and exuberant celebrations. This musical worship experience lifts high the name of Jesus. You will love the arrangements of some of today's most popular worship songs like "Jesus Saves," "Your Great Name," "Always," and "Oh the Blood" and will be swept away by new arrangement of classic favorites like "Because He Lives" and "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus."

Please come and join us as we begin our new journey into the Wonder that is Easter. All are welcome and wanted.

Mary A MacAdams

FUMC Chancel Choir Director