


Church Volleyball League begins January 11. If you are interested in playing for our church team please sign up on the bulletin board.



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.





HANDBELL CHOIR
 The FUMC Hand Bell Choir begins practice January 5. All interested people join us in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 pm.
 Millie Dyer
 Director

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

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Happy
New
Year!

Spirit Alive

January 2011

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Children's Choir

Director

Leann Hill

Hand Bell Choir Director

Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Dear Friends:

Christian Schwarz has surveyed and studied thousands of churches all over the world. From his research he has discovered eight areas in which all vital, growing churches succeed. This discovery led him to publish the book *Natural Church Development* which describes these eight areas and shows how churches can measure their effectiveness in each of these areas.

He has written a companion book on the subject of Spiritual Gifts which is entitled *The 3 Colors of Ministry*. This book is the basis of a sermon series which Pastor Deb and I will be preaching for the first six weeks of 2011.

The premise is that we can look at life/faith/theology in three ways. He has given each of these three areas a color: Green, Red and Blue. The three colors correspond to the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father/Creator (green for creation), God the Son/Redeemer (red for Christ's blood), and God the Holy Spirit (blue for the wind/spirit). The three areas can also be described as Wisdom (green), Commitment (red), and Power (blue).

While each of us have aspects of all three areas in our life through our beliefs, experiences, and preferences, most of us tend to have one or two dominant "colors." We will be providing a simple "quiz" to see **WHAT COLOR CHRISTIAN YOU ARE.**

During the sermon series we will be looking at six characters from the Bible who exhibit these different characteristics:

Thomas, the Skeptical Believer (green)

Martha, the Controlling Believer (red)

Mary (the sister of Martha), the Spiritualizing Believer (blue)

Moses, the Burned Out Believer (green & red)

Peter, the Fanatical Believer (red & blue)

Jonah, the Detached Believer (blue & green)

We invite you to come and see which of these believers you are most like, who your spouse and/or friends are like, and how we can learn from and work with those who are a different color than ourselves.

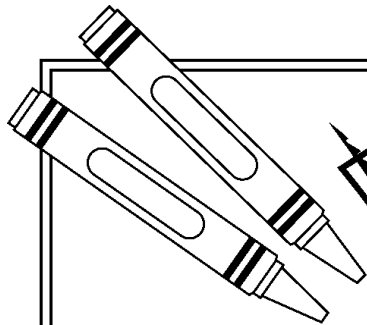
I think that this will be a fun way to celebrate the unique gifts that God has given to each of us and the different ways that we look at life, faith, and God.

I encourage you to join us for this series of sermons and worship services. We will be doing this series at both the Saturday (6pm) and Sunday (9am) worship services.

As we enter this new year let us give thanks for the gifts God has given to each of us, and celebrate our coming together to use our gifts as part of the one Body of Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

Just For Kids!!



PUZZLE

From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"
2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

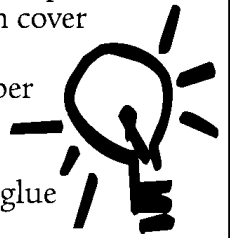
"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



Upcoming Events



January 9

7:00—8:30 pm
Evening Gathering

At the Church

January 16

Time: TBA
Ski Trip

Just for Fun

January 23

9:00 am
Pack the Pew

Come to Church

January 23

7:00—9:00 pm
Mission Night

Training Session #1

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Jeff VanPelt | 16 Tiffany Welsh | 25 Ryan Wilkinson |
| 3 Samantha Connery
Laura Lyle
Cynthia Tallman | 17 James Hausman
Sydney Larson
Nathanael Sampson | 26 Madonna Anderson
Kaitlyn Ehrler |
| 4 Christian Delgado
Cassandra Jones
Cody Weist | 18 Stephen Gordon
Joyrene Hartshorn
Kurt Maubach | 27 Stephanie Olson
Mary Turk |
| 5 Monica Brehm
MacKenzie Messina | 19 Thomas Connor
David Dix
Jessica Frederick | 28 Katie Dix
Shirley Moore |
| 7 Nancy Enervold
Candace Larson | 20 Jessica Murphy
Brett Sager
Ryan Sprole | 29 Renee Garmon
Douglas Sklut |
| 9 Hannah Carson
Lila Dite
Amy Doyle
Laura Jager
Riley Krueger
Michael Perry | 21 William Burns
Jacob Carter
Nathan Diaz
William Ringer | 30 Mark Fahey
Melvin Fight
Michelle Murphy
Douglas Read
Nell West |
| 11 James Bumgarner
Tim Kindelspire | 22 Sandra Wols
Tony Xydakis | 31 Zoe Merrick
Modest Sjostrom
Marie Taylor |
| 13 Lloyd Jones
Ron McDaniel | 23 Margaret Bates
Mark Conley
Gwendolyn Johnson
Carol Martin | |
| 14 Gene Gang
Terry Steinbach
Laurie Wantland | 24 Jennifer Higgins
Mark Trusheim | |
| 15 Mary MacAdams | | |