



Vacation Bible School
June 20-24
9:00 am—noon

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Leann Hill 815-942-5938 or the church office. Anyone 6th grade & older can help. To register, either fill out a registration form from the church office or go to the church's website (www.morrisumc.com) and select VBS on the bottom-left hand side.



Socks & Undies Drive

To help alleviate the financial burden of return to school costs for low-income families, our church is participating in We Care's annual Socks and Undies Drive. Please bring NEW packages of socks or underwear for elementary through high-school age students and place in the marked laundry basket in the narthex. We will be collecting from Sunday, June 12 through Sunday, July 10th.

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

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Spirit Alive

June 2011

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Children's Choir

Director
 Leann Hill

Hand Bell Choir Director

Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Greetings!

June is an exciting month in the life of our congregation! It's the month we celebrate Vacation Bible School! It's the month our Senior High Youth go on their annual ASP trip! And, less exciting, but not less important, June is the month our lay delegates and pastors participate in Annual Conference!

This year's Vacation Bible School theme is *Shake it Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe*. Each day we will learn about a festival in the Bible. These festivals are set times and occasions when the community gathers to eat and worship God together. The purpose is to help us to put God at the center of our lives. They teach us about God and about who God desires us to be as we learn the specific instructions (like a recipe!) God gave for these festivals. Like the Israelites and early Christians we are shaped into God's people through the celebration of these festivals. Sara Covin Juengst (*Breaking Bread: The Spiritual Significance of Food*) explains about these festivals, "they were not sober, dignified, solemn feasts. They included processions, dancing, and feasting." And YES! We will cook!!!

Vacation Bible School is not just for kids this year. Pastor Scott will be leading an adult study of these festivals, too, and I'm told that the adults will get to participate in snacks, recreation, and cooking as well as Bible study!!

I invite you to participate by attending Vacation Bible School this year (Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24). I also invite you to please keep all of our leaders and students in your prayers throughout the week and read God's stories with us.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Today's Special</u>	<u>Bible Lesson</u>	<u>Secret Ingredient</u>
Mon.	Israelites Celebrate Passover	Exodus 13:3-10	Be Ready for God
Tues.	Festival of Celebrations for the Israelites	Leviticus 23	Give Happily to God
Wed.	Jesus Celebrates the Festival of Booths	John 7:37-44	Believe Fully in Jesus
Thur.	Jesus Celebrates Passover	Luke 22:8-20	Remember Jesus Often
Fri.	Celebrating the Festival of Weeks & Pentecost	Acts 2	Celebrate God Forever

June is an exciting month because our Senior High (36 students and 14 leaders) will be traveling to Leslie County, Kentucky on the ASP trip (June 26 through July 2)!! As in past years, we expect God to do amazing things in the lives of the families we will be serving. We know, too, that this ASP experience is life transforming for our youth and adult leaders. Please begin praying now for these families, our youth and our leaders.

Our congregation's lay delegates to Annual Conference (Wednesday, June 8 through Saturday, June 11) are Charles Butts, Sandy Wols, and Kaitlyn Butler. These delegates have the very important task of representing our congregation at conference and have full voice and vote on issues presented before the Annual Conference. Pastor Scott and I will also be attending. The highlight this year will be electing our Annual Conference's lay and clergy delegates to General Conference (to be held in 2012). Pray for wisdom and discernment for our delegates and our Northern Illinois Conference.

June promises to be an exciting month for all of us in the life here at First UMC in Morris! I know I can't wait

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:15-16

Shalom,
 Pastor Deb

News of the flock

Hospitalized

Earl Slater

Robert Slater

Lila Dite

The beginning of life in faith . . .

We celebrate with the following family on the baptism of their child . . .

~ Afton Claire Anderson, daughter of Andy & Sarah Anderson. Grandparents are Dave & Karen Anderson

The beginning of life eternal . . .

Remember the following in your prayers . . .

~ Janice Frosch and family on the passing of her husband, Larry Frosch.

~ Wendy & Bill Eason and family on the death of her father, Harvey Mulderink.

~ Betty Duvall and family on the passing of her husband, John Duvall.

~ Carol Martin, Jim & Mary Ringer and family on the death of their husband and father, Lance Martin.



Thanks for the lovely church flowers you sent me. Also to all my friends who came to my party and helped me celebrate; or sent lovely cars, gifts, food and flowers and ones who said a prayer for me. It was all greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all,
Bessie Hexdall

Thank you to: Pastor Scott and Pastor Deb for your compassionate words and the wonderful service for John. Cheryle Larson and Carol Jacobs for their talents of music and song. They were wonderful. Judy Burns, Leann Hill, Sue Hall, Lori Woodard, Kathy Jackson, Marge Olson and Pam Butler for their gifts of food and service at the luncheon. The service was excellent and served with smiling faces and kind words. To all others that offered hugs, kind words, prayers, cards, gifts and services of any kind—Our family thanks you for making this sad day a wonderful memory. May God bless each of you.

Betty Duvall and family

I want to express my gratitude for all the cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy extended with the recent passing of my mother, Ruth Dibble. My family and I appreciate all your thoughtfulness. Thank you to my church family.

Diane Borger

Thank you for donating to Cargill's 3rd Annual Feeding the Hungry Program. Your support is very much appreciated and will certainly make a difference in our community. Because of this program over \$70,000 is being donated to local food banks.

Thank you sincerely,
Ryan H. Cargill

Dear Friends at FUMC,

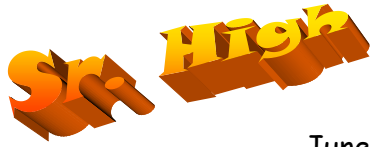
Thank you for your 2 donations totaling \$1,276 to We Care of Grundy County, Inc. which we included in the Cargill Feeding the Hungry Match Program. As a result of your donation along with many others, Cargill's matching donation totaled \$11,433!

In these economic times, many families are struggling just to make ends meet, and are unsure of where to turn for help. In 2010 we have served 5,064 families and 2,586 of those families have been served at our food pantry. Thank you for supporting us and in turn giving hope and help to the community.

Sincerely,
Denise Gaska, Executive Director of We Care of Gundy County, Inc.



Upcoming Events



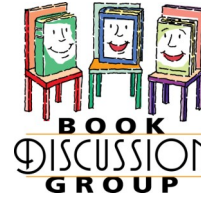
June 5

Gus Macker Tear Down
Downtown Morris

TBA

June 26—July 2

ASP Trip



The Book Club will be meeting on Monday, June 6 to discuss "RESIST: Christian Dissent for the 21st Century", taken from the Gospels to resist systemic evils in the realm of politics, economics and culture. All are welcome to join us.

Mobile Meals



The poster to sign up to deliver Mobile Meals is on the bulletin board and will be there until the middle of June. We are now picking up the meals in the front lobby. This should make it

easier for every one. Please sign up now or I will be calling you!!

Connie Kundert

What Can I Do To Welcome People?

The Hospitality Group needs your help in identifying visitors, guests, and newcomers when they attend church service. Please introduce yourself when you do not know the people within 10 feet of you at church. If you find out that they are visitors, introduce the Hospitality person and we will provide them a Welcome pamphlet, invite them to refreshments, and explain the facilities if needed.

Hospitality is more than shaking hands at the church door. Hospitality is a church culture or lifestyle that extends in and outside the church building. As members, you are part of that activity and should introduce yourself to people you do not know. You may discover that they are already members, which is your worst fear. Don't be embarrassed, you have just reinforced the friendliness and warmth of our church. Explain how pleased you are to meet them



Word from Finance



The finance committee received the following note from Kristina Garyham (UMC of Worth & Member of CCFA):

"I wanted to extend my personal thanks to you and the members of your congregation for your more than 100% support of the Northern IL Conference apportionment's. Many are dealing with difficult economic times and that makes your support even more important. You made a difference into many lives and so many ministries."

It is God's blessing that our finances have allowed us to be one month ahead in our support.

Tom Hardman

UMW Circle News

- ~ Executive Board meets Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.
- ~ Wednesday Circle meets Wednesday, June 15 at Lindy Gerties Restaurant at 12:30 p.m.
- ~ Martha Circle meets Thursday, June 16th at 9:00 a.m. at the church.
- ~ God's Girls meet Thursday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the church.
- ~ Rebekah Circle meets Thursday, June 16th at 6:30 p.m. for potluck at Fran Kief's.
- ~ Monday Circle meets Monday, June 20th at 12:30 p.m. at the church.

"Meals on Wheels"—not to be confused with "Mobile Meals"—is always looking for drivers. There are 50—60 people throughout Grundy County that receive "Meals on Wheels". The Morris route has 7—10 people who have meals delivered to them. The meals are picked up at Saratoga Towers. If you are interested in helping call 815-941-1590 and ask for Cindy.

Summer is coming and so are the great summer camps at Reynoldswood and Wesley Woods. Scholarships are available. This money was generously given by the United Methodist Women and Men. See one of the pastors or call the church office. Please bring the registration form to the church office so the check can be mailed with it.



Outdoor and Retreat Ministries

June Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1 Karen Anderson
Anne Barr
Denny Jackson</p> | <p>9 Matthew Nix
Millie Williamson</p> | <p>19 Beth Trusheim
Earl Twait</p> |
| <p>2 Lori Davis
Kurt Holzinger
Corey Olson
Jessica Peterson
Gabriel White</p> | <p>10 Anne Kennedy
Tessa Spiezio
Donna Thorkelson</p> | <p>20 Alexandria VanPelt
21 Destiny Karras
22 Paul Lucas
23 Philip Burns
Glenn Mattes
John Snyder
Eva Thompson</p> |
| <p>3 Connie Kundert
Paul Sprole</p> | <p>12 Janell Gardner
Sam Neal
Michelle Xydakis</p> | <p>25 Lynn Hall
Terri Wilson</p> |
| <p>4 Barbara Berry
Ryan Jacobs
Louis Magers
Fay Male
Thomas Norton
Rick Roberts</p> | <p>13 Laurel Harper
Susan Hartshorn
Libby Wright</p> | <p>26 William Brayton
Shirley Joyce
Nadine Matteson
Katie Welsh</p> |
| <p>5 Erik Enervold
Austin Thompson</p> | <p>14 Diane Borger
Twyla Staehling</p> | <p>27 Marilyn Kneller
Cliff Olson
Jeanne Washburn</p> |
| <p>6 Mackenzie Larson
Alex Ulrich</p> | <p>15 Beth Trotter
Curtis Williams</p> | <p>28 Tracy Eslinger-Uher
Jason Flanders
Judy Larson</p> |
| <p>8 Shana Cook
Coleen Gregory
Jacob Hicks
Kathleen Kulof
Marilyn Larson</p> | <p>16 Jeffrey Harris
17 Sandy Bednarik
Bill Funke
Leann Hill
Carol Jacobs
Mitchell Redford</p> | <p>29 George Brown
Jakob Roth
Ken West</p> |
| <p>9 Judy Claypool
Casey Hall
Steve Helland
Don Kundert</p> | <p>18 Lainie Arozamena
Skylar Easson
Greg Redford</p> | <p>30 Thomas Acker
Jackie Diaz
Kody Enervold
Stephanie Matney
Beth Williams</p> |
| | <p>19 Tim Beck
John Bednarik
Jill Hanley
Betty Kent
Steve Owens</p> | |



St. Vincent's Table

What if you had no food in your house for a meal? How many of you can go to your cupboard or pantry and fix a meal from what you have on hand? I know I can!

Thursday nights in Morris and Monday nights in Coal City give residents of Grundy County the chance to have a free meal provided by several churches and organizations. These weekly meals have been ongoing for the last 5-6 years to people in the area who need a meal.

This opportunity only exists because of you and 10 other churches and organization. There are two Thursdays when meals are not served—Corn Festival Thursday and Thanksgiving. Provisions are made for meals in other locations on those Thursdays.

In the past 29 weeks St. Vincent's Table has served 444 guests. Each group serving averages 4-6 helpers. Thursday, May 5 FUMC served meat dishes, vegetable, fruit, and desserts. All food was donated by members of the church. Helpers for the night included Marian Benson, Sandy and Ray Lisy, and John Mueller.

FUMC is committed to serve 3 more meals for St. Vincent's Table during 2011. Donations of food and helpers for these dates are needed (June 23, August 25 and December 22). A sign up sheet will be posted 1 month prior to each of those meals.

These meals are not possible without you!

Millie Dyer



Church Office Summer Hours begin May 31. The church office will be open Monday—Thursday: 8:30 am—noon & 1:00—2:00 pm and Fridays: 8:30 am—noon. The church doors will lock when the church office closes and will re-open 30 minutes prior to scheduled meetings. Please make sure all meetings are on the church calendar. If you need to get into the church during off hours please notify the church office at least 1 day in advance.



American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Grundy County event

Upcoming June 25-26 at Morris High School

Look for the Luminaria Sales table and for a donation jar for our church team in the Narthex after June worship services.

Please support your First United Methodist Relay Team

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Kristy Ehrler | Kay Bonneur | Kristi Condon |
| Paul Sprole | Diane Sprole | Janis Hedenschoug |
| Michelle Altiery | Gerry Matteson | Jim Hedenschoug |
| Wendy Easson | Skylar Easson | Sophie Gaska |
| Carol Marie Gaska | Rick Gaska | |

American Cancer Society – Official Sponsor of More Birthdays!

Job Opening



The United Methodist Preschool has a position opening for a Teacher's Aide for the 2011-2012 school year. Application packets will be available in the church office beginning June 1st and are due back upon completion by July 1st. All interested applicants must meet the DCFS guidelines for employment including a medical physical, background check and on-going training hours and must hold a high school diploma or GED. Early Childhood Education and experience is a plus. In addition to regular classroom hours, some after hours responsibilities should be anticipated. Applicants will be contacted in July regarding the interview process.

PENTECOST MOBILE

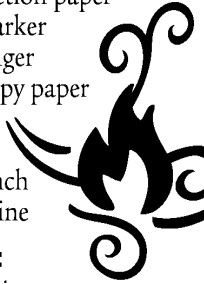
Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.

What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line

What you do:

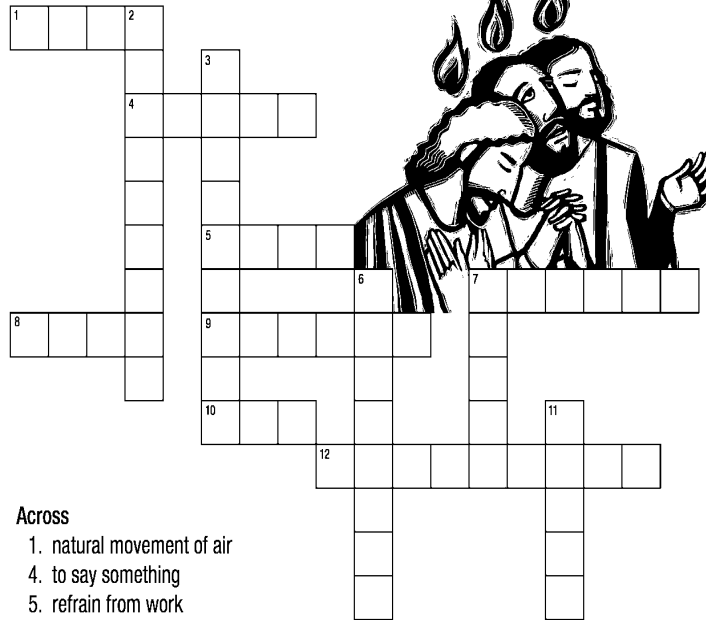
1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.



The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

J
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Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound