


October Spirit Alive
is due in the church
office by
September 20!

Starting September 6—Church Office Hours will
return to Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am—noon &
1:00—4:00 pm and Friday: 8:30 am—noon &
1:00—2:00 pm. The church doors will be open
from 7:00 am—9:00 pm, Monday—Thursday
and 7:00 am—2:00 pm on Fridays.

**Join us
for our
Activities**



Cornfest Events at the Church

Ham & Bean Dinner w/cornbread
Friday, Sept. 30
11 am—7 pm
Jr. High Youth will be selling pop & pie.

Outdoor Worship Service
Saturday, Oct. 1
6 pm

Pork Burger Sales
Sunday, Oct. 2
11 am—2 pm
Sr. High Youth will be selling pork burgers, pop & cookies.

(All events will take place in the church parking lot.)

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

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SEPTEMBER



Spirit Alive

September 2011

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Children's Choir

Director

Leann Hill

Hand Bell Choir Director

Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Dear Friends:

You've heard the old saying: "A watched pot never boils!" But I know that we've all watched water boiling on the stove—(maybe to see if the saying is really true!) As the temperature rises, just as the water is ready to boil, bubbles start to form at the bottom of the pot. Steam emerges as the bubbles begin to rise. Soon the entire pot is in a full boil and the transformation of the water is complete.

As we move into Fall and the beginning of another program year, it seems to me that there are many "bubbles of change" appearing just under the surface. Last winter the Church Council adopted the Strategic Plan which was put together by our Visioning Team. It contains six strategies for accomplishing our church's mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

The Plan has produced a lot of "holy conversations" by various programming groups in the church as to how to implement these strategies. Each of the six strategies is being addressed. We experimented with visuals to enhance our worship services. We are looking to add Adult Sunday School Classes to meet the needs of our members. We are looking into organizing a Post High School/Adult Mission Trip similar to our ASP trips. We are looking at signage inside our building that will be more user-friendly to visitors and guests, as well as the possibility of an outdoor message board that will share our activities with those who pass by our building. We have had the first of several gatherings with Young Adult families to see how the church can best meet their needs. And we have had the first training session for Greeters and Hospitality Hosts to help improve our welcome to visitors and guests during our worship services.

Lots of things are bubbling, almost ready to come to the surface! We look for God's guidance as we continue this process of Visioning, Goal Setting, and Planning.

One last thing: We know that when water boils one of two things can happen. 1) The steam that is produced can be harnessed to create POWER! Or, 2) If you're not careful, you can get BURNED! We all need to continue to work together to use the power and energy being generated in order to be the Church that God intends us to be.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

News of the flock

Hospitalized

Donna Matteson Joan Helgeson

The beginning of life eternal . . .

Remember the following in your prayers . . .

~ Ellie Anderson on the death of her husband, Larry Anderson.

~ Diane & Kent Borger on the passing of her brother-in-law, Owen Stuckey.



Our missionary, Karen Ujereh will be here on Thursday, September 15 at 9:00 am to speak on "What is a MIIR and Where in the World is Senegal?" Please join us in fellowship hall to hear about the missions we support and to meet and greet Karen. All are welcome.



Calling all Senior Citizens!! Touch of Gray will be meeting on Friday, September 16 at 6:00 pm in fellowship hall. Join us for food, fun and fellowship. We will be meeting on the third Fridays of each month at 6:00 pm.



Dear Friends at First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for participating in our "socks and undies" drive for the low income children of Grundy County. Some children do not have even the basic necessities and this puts a burden on their already struggling households. We appreciate your willingness to serve others in this way and help them get off to a good start in the coming school year.

Denise Gaska, Executive Director—We Care of Grundy County, Inc.

We want to extend a big thank you to Sheldon and Mary Davis for their dedication to getting out our Spirit Alive each month. They were responsible for coordinating the helpers, organizing the mailing and getting the Spirit Alive to the post office. Do to busy schedules they have stepped down from this position. Thanks again to them for all their time and dedication. If anyone is interested in taking over this responsibility, contact the church office.

I thank all members from First United Methodist Church who helped serve and prepare food for St. Vincent's Table August 25. The meal is truly appreciated by the guests.

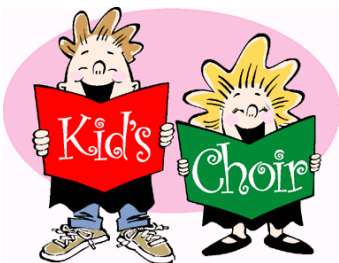
Millie Dyer

A BIG THANK YOU to my Church Family for their continued prayers, concern, and cards as I have gone through my treatments. I am doing well and will start my last leg (radiation) mid-September through October. I look forward to being done and being healthy. Thank you and Praise God!

Mary Jo Schuster

Thank you to Mark Conley of Conley Excavating for all his work and coordinating of the parking lot repaving. It came in under budget, on time and looks great. Thanks again Mark!

Calling all kids!
Do you like to sing?
We have a choir for you!



There will be a choir for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Our youth choir will continue for youth in 4th grade through 8th grade. Rehearsals will begin on Wed., Oct. 5th. The children's choir will meet from 5:00 to 5:30 and the youth choir from 5:30 to 6:00. Please let Leann Hill (942-5938) or the church office know if you are interested.



Word from Finance



It seems like yesterday I was writing about the beginning of summer and things slowing down and now here we are with the new school year beginning and life beginning to speed up again. Time does certainly fly by! I am happy to report that the new parking lot has been completed. In addition, a new concrete pad for the canopy has been finished and a new concrete apron for the storage garage finished. The storage garage is also having a new garage door and entry door installed. Thanks to your gifts, we are able to complete these needed improvements to our church and meet all of our other financial obligations. God bless you for your continued support of our church.

Terry Klepp, Finance Chairperson

Bell Choir



The First United Methodist Church Hand Bell Choir is back from summer break. We practice Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

from 5:00—6:00 pm. We have vacancies due to a college bound student and others. Please give the choir a try. It's fun and not hard to learn. If you have questions, call Millie Dyer, 815-942-5068.



CORN FEST IS COMING!

Corn Festival time is sneaking up on us! On Friday, September 30, Methodist Men will be having their annual Ham and Bean dinner. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help with this annual event. This is an all church event and without your help, this tradition would not be possible. Please consider signing up for a time slot. There are a variety of jobs and times available. Thank you.

September Birthdays

- 2 Dieter Holzinger
Doug Schlutz
- 3 Betty Duvall
Karen Finch
- 4 Kristi Borger
Robin Ferri
George Gordon
Beatrice Jones
- 5 Carol Gill
- 6 Kathy Dare
Evan Williams
- 7 Collin Kingsbury
Dianne Steinbach
- 8 Harold Male
John Maubach
- 9 Nicole Beck
Louis Borger
- 10 Michelle Altiery
Jacob Wantland
- 11 Cathleen Messing
- 12 Judy Burns
Mark Lincoln
Steve Roth
- 13 Amy Baker
Sherry Doyle
Jean Patterson

- 14 Kent Borger
Mackenzie Eber
Caitlyn Eisenbeis
Tim Perry
- 15 Camryn Butts
Becky Thomas
- 16 Tom Enervold
Christopher Lamaze
Megan Norton
Megan Smith
- 18 Betty Borger
David Finch
Rebecca Lynch
Tina Varner
- 19 Ava Conley
Joel Heffner
- 20 Brianne Carter
Scott Eisenbeis
Marion Hausman
- 21 Carol Marie Gaska
George Miller
Wes Owens
- 22 Robert Byerley
- 23 Steve Larson
Adam Wilson
- 24 John Callahan

- 24 Richard Hanson
Tom Packley
Kyle Ripsch
- 25 Jack Allen
Ethan Jones
Donna Lee
- 26 Byron Beck
Bonnie Murphy
Deb Percell
Erik Siebold
- 27 Matt Butler
Michael Farrell
Abby Helland
- 28 Ruth Frey
- 29 Pam Butler
Wallace Hildy
- 30 Cori McTague



UMW Circle News

- ~ Executive Board is Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm at the church
- ~ Martha Circle is Thursday, September 15 at 9:00 am at the church: Program given by Missionary Karen Ujereh
- ~ Rebekah Circle is Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 pm for a potluck at Gayle Green's home
- ~ God's Girls is Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 pm at the church
- ~ Monday Circle is Monday, September 19 at 12:30 pm at the church
- ~ Wednesday Circle is Wednesday, September 21 at 12:30 pm at Letty Mae's Tea Room on Liberty St.
- ~ Unit Meeting is Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm at the church
- ~ Aurora District Annual Meeting is Saturday, September 24



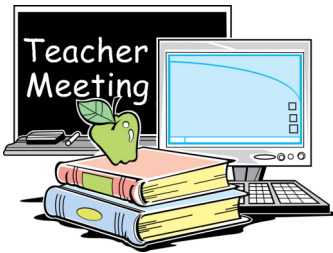
You only have about 6 weeks left until the Fall Rummage Sale. You can start bringing your treasures on

Monday, October 3. Sale week is October 9. Sign up sheets will be passed at circle meetings, but all are welcome to help. Start your cleaning NOW and support mission, too!



UMW Unit Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 27
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Speaker : Dr. Jen Jacobs

The United Methodist Women are hosting a unit meeting on September 27 at 7:00 pm. The speaker is Dr. Jen Jacobs who will be sharing mission stories and pictures about her trips to Central America. She is an optometrist who travels with the Ft. Wayne, IN Lions Club and has been to El Salvador and Honduras. The UMW is issuing an invitation to anyone interested in attending and a special invitation is being issued to high school students who know Jen from ASP trips.



Calling all Sunday School teachers— There will be a teacher orientation meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at

7:00 pm at the church. If you are unable to attend please contact Leann Hill.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Have You Thought About Becoming a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry has been a part of our church for over ten years now. Maybe you already know that it is a confidential, one-to-one Christian caregiving ministry that helps individuals who are going through a difficult time – maybe unemployment, illness, grief, loneliness, depression or possibly even a hard transition in life. Those of us who are Stephen Ministers and Leaders aren't able to personally say too much about our ministry since it is so confidential and we would never break the trust our care receivers have in us.

Possibly you have given some thought and maybe even felt a nudging from God to take the training program to become a Stephen Minister. Pastor Deb will present an Informational meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 20 at church. She will give details and classroom examples about what the training involves. An application process must be followed in signing up for the training class that will begin in January 2012. Pastor Deb will discuss this process at the informational meeting. Any questions about training that may come up before the meeting can be addressed to Pastor Deb at the church or Joyce Redford, our Intake Coordinator.

Diane Sprole, Stephen Leader

P.A.D.S. Grundy County Homeless Shelter Program

I am happy to announce that Lorna and Tom Hardman are the two new Site Coordinators who will be working with me this season. As many of you have heard, Judy & John Claypool have retired as coordinators. Judy & John will continue to be involved with P.A.D.S., just not as Site Coordinators.

Very soon I'll be contacting many of our past volunteers to allow them the choice of their slots from last year or if they desire a change for this coming season.

I will also be asking a few new persons to volunteer for one of our 4 hour slots each month for the 6 months P.A.D.S. is open. If you are interested please contact me.

Our church hosts P.A.D.S. each Tuesday night and our first P.A.D.S. night is Oct 18th. The shifts are: Shift #1 – 6:15pm to 11pm, Shift #2 – 10:45pm to 3:00am and Shift #3 – 2:45am to 7:30am.

Thanks in advance to the ~40 volunteers it takes to have our church as a P.A.D.S site!

Paul Sprole

Bible BBQ Bonanza Extravaganza



If you read the August Spirit Alive, you already have the date and time of September 11 at 10:30 marked on your calendar. You just weren't quite sure what words to write to identify the event. We have the words for you now! **Bible BBQ Bonanza Extravaganza**. The Fellowship Team has joined with the Education Team to plan this event that celebrates the beginning of the 2011-2012 Sunday School year as well as gathering all ages together for an annual church picnic cookout lunch. Following is how the morning will flow:

Sunday, September 11 (Dress in casual, picnic attire for church)

Sunday School Teachers will be introduced during the 9 AM worship service. After worship, teachers will go to their Sunday School classrooms where they will greet their students and students' families. This "meet and greet" time should take about 10-15 minutes. Each student will be given a ticket by the Sunday School teacher that will then be his or her entrance to the **Bible BBQ Bonanza Extravaganza** that will be set up outside on the former Muffler property grassy area as well as the alleyway by the church. Parents are asked to accompany their children as they enter the Bible based centers complete with games, crafts, drama, storytellers, and did we say... lunch? Yes, Jim Hill will be grilling burgers that will be served at tables set under canopies in the alleyway. Issues Adult Sunday School Class is in charge to make sure lunch for all runs smoothly.

So remember this **Bible BBQ Bonanza Extravaganza** is for everyone, not just our children who will be attending Sunday School. All those not involved in Sunday School are welcome outside immediately following worship. This is a time to hear again some of our favorite Bible stories told and reenacted by church members as well as enjoy our high school youth's participation in creating some silly fun with games like "the wet sponge throw". And don't forget that lunch is included also.



The Fellowship and Education Teams



Our Junior High Youth Fellowship needs your help! We need at least 75 pies to meet the projected need for the Cornfest Friday sale. Please help us by donating a homemade ready-to-eat non-crème pie or two. Jr. High Youth is not a budgeted program within the church, and we depend on this fundraiser to support our year's activities.

The Jr. & Sr. High Youth are also in need of name brand canned pop and bottled water for the sale on Friday, Sept. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 2.

Please bring name brand pop and water to the church by Thursday, Sept. 29. Bring your pies to the church Friday morning, Sept. 30 by 9:30 am.

Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board for pop, pie and to volunteer to help the Methodist Men with their ham & bean dinner.

Membership Care hosted greeter/hospitality training in August. This is an action to help us become a "welcoming" church to not only be friendly to our members but to recognize visitors and make sure they are treated as welcome guests of our church.

As greeters we will recognize visitors and introduce them to the Hospitality Host who will see to their individual needs.

Please introduce yourself to guests and invite them to refreshments in Fellowship Hall. And when you see them at refreshments, include them in conversation. You may be the reason they return to join us again.



Jr. High Youth Fellowship

We are planning our fall meetings and activities for Jr. High Youth Fellowship.

Our first gathering will be on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 4:30—6:00 pm. Parents and youth of 6th, 7th & 8th grades are invited to attend this information meeting.

Our first activity will be the pop and pie sales at Cornfest on Friday, Sept. 30. It takes all of us to make this fundraiser for our youth group successful. Please mark this date on your calendar too! Sign up sheets will be available at our information meeting on the 11th!

If you have questions, please call Pastor Deb.

ADDRESSES NEEDED

We are in the process of updating our records and would like to be able to communicate with our college students and military members. If you have a child away at college or in the military please fill out this form and return it to the church office or e-mail the information to julie@morrisumc.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

