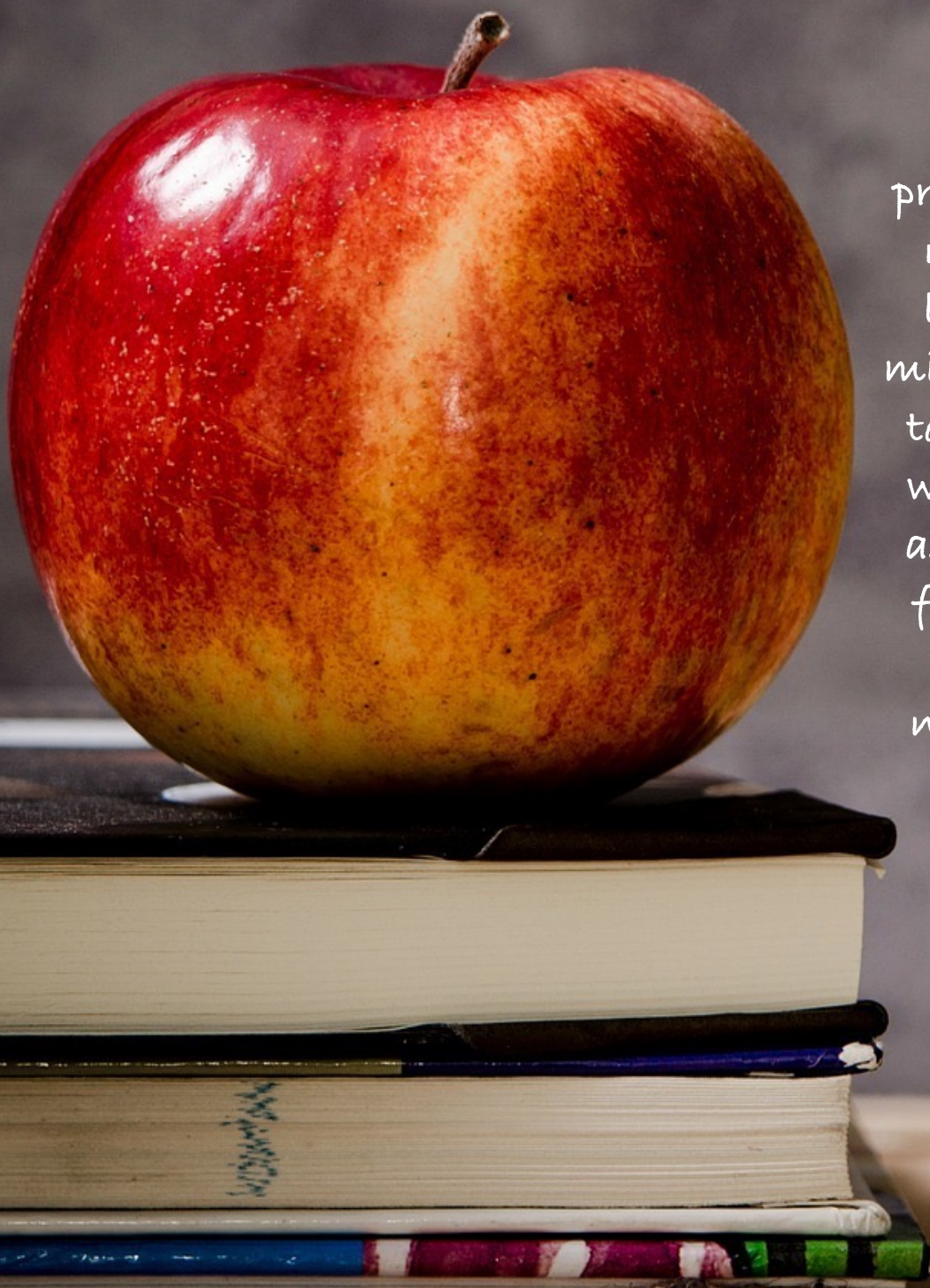


# THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

## Back to School



*As the students prepare to head into a new school year to learn and grow, it might be time for you to consider how you will learn and grow as well! Look inside for ways for you to step forward and nurture your faith.*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I was fortunate to be at Jurisdictional Conference this past month when our new bishop, Frank J. Beard, was elected to the episcopacy. Bishop Beard joins the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in September. I was in the room the evening he was elected, and was able to hear his address to the conference. In it, he shared that his first experience with the church was being invited by the pastor to come in for Kool-aid and cookies after an evening of VBS...and then he was invited to come back for VBS the next night...and he did. He said that church nurtured him in faith. He went to VBS, and they sent him to church camp, and they helped him grow his faith.

I have long-standing memories of my Sunday school teachers – Marilyn and Carol, in particular – who loved me into faith. I remember pastors who baptized and confirmed me (I was an older child when I was baptized). I remember summers of VBS, where we met in tents as tribes of Israel, and the kitchen ladies would bring us trays full of cookies and glasses of cold Kool-aid. I remember discussions in youth ministry that changed my life, alongside the members of the church who served as our sponsors. I recall mission trips that forever changed the way I looked at the world. Many times, my faith was nurtured by my involvement in Bible studies, in Wesley Foundation campus ministries, and by gathering for worship and prayer.

I'm very aware that we have people in our congregation at all points of their faith journey. Some feel that they get all that they need to grow simply by attending worship. Others see Sunday school as an integral part of their faith. Still others seem to be hungry for that nurturing and sign up for every single Bible study and small group that's offered.

This month, students head back to school. Some of our students will head off to college, trade school, or the military, and your household dynamics will change. Some of your routines will change as students (or you) head back into the classroom. Our ministries will change as well. I want to encourage you to read this month's newsletter for an eye on the ways in which you can take a step forward to have your faith nurtured. Hear the stories of others who have seen what a difference Christian formation has made to their faith and life. Consider how God might be calling you to grow.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Jay

# LEARNING & TEACHING: MY LIFELONG JOURNEY

BY SHANNON GOEBEL



As I sit down to reflect on what Sunday School & Disciple Bible study mean to me, I struggle with where to even begin. I cannot imagine my life without either one, as they both have had profound impacts on my faith. One quote that I came across read “I want to stop thinking of reading my Bible as an item on my Christian checklist and really experience God instead.” As a school teacher, I frequently assign textbook reading in order for my students to be prepared and allow for us to cover all of the material necessary each semester. Though they may grumble at the thought of reading, it is imperative for them to spend time trying to sift through the information individually so that they become personally familiar with the concepts. Isn’t being a Christian the same? The Bible is God’s intimate letter to each of us. It contains all of his guidelines and instructions for this life. It is our hope and strength for navigating this world. It is his love letter to every one of us. How do we know what it says or what we believe if we don’t spend quality time becoming personally familiar with it?

Just as with any other area of life, becoming familiar with God’s word takes discipline. It is so much easier if we have partners in the journey to encourage us to stick with it and give insight into each scripture. Those of us who have participated in Disciple often joke that our lives seem out of sorts or lack structure when we take a week off or are between studies. I look forward to fellowship each week with the others in class and hearing how God has spoken to each of them through their reading of the same scriptures and the life experiences they have each had. None of us are experts on scripture, but we are all humans seeking God’s love in our life. I think it is absolutely fascinating to listen to each person speak about their individual walk through life and perspectives on Jesus. It touches my heart and helps me to hear God’s voice in a new way. I firmly believe that wisdom is all around us, if we simply take the time to listen.

Each week as part of Disciple Bible Study, we examine a statement entitled Our Human Condition, because after all we are human and daily fall short of the glory of God. The final week’s study of Disciple II was about Ordering Our Lives Around God and taking time daily and weekly to focus on our relationship with him. The Human Condition statement said: “Mostly I put me first. Each new decision becomes a crisis; I feel pushed and pulled in all directions. I spend my time doing the immediate and put off the important. So often my life seems off balance.” I know that without making a conscious effort to include Bible study in my daily life, this statement comes true all too often for me. If it also speaks to you, I highly encourage you to go out on a limb and join a new group or study which will allow you to explore your faith more deeply. There are lots of fantastic opportunities to learn and grow here at First United Methodist Church. I am absolutely certain that your life will be richer for having done so.

In His Love,

Shannon Goebel

# HOW STUDY FORMS ME

BY SHIRLEY WAKEFIELD



I enjoyed being a part of the Disciple Bible Study group. I love the stories of the early Jews and how they followed God's instructions or often disobeyed them. God never gave up on them and gave them another chance - just like he does for us yet today. It is a daily challenge for us to show our faith by loving and forgiving others.

Disciple Bible Study was a good opportunity to read the Bible, and question what God means for us to learn. By discussing the verses, we find that others have the same questions or have another opinion on what the verses mean. There are no wrong answers, just a sharing of ideas. I recommend that everyone take at least a portion of a class. I know you will be happy that you did. To me it meant the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the Bible, and to strengthen my faith.

GOD LOVES YOU!!!

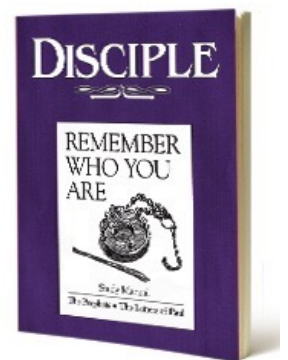
## UPCOMING STUDIES AT FUMMC

### Sunday School

Sunday school classes meet weekly at 10:15 am. Beginning in September, we'll embark on an all-church study called "First/Shiny Gods" by Mike Slaughter. Each age group (children through adults) will be studying this video-based series for the month. Daily devotion books during this study will be available for purchase (\$6). For the rest of the school year, all age groups will be studying "The Story," which gives us a grand sweep of the Biblical story. All these studies are easily "drop-in" studies, which means you can attend when you're able, but not feel like you can't keep up if you need to be gone.

### Disciple III

Our Disciple III class will begin in September! Tuesday evening classes will be offered from 6:00-8:00 pm, (childcare provided) beginning September 6. Thursday morning classes will be offered from 9:30-11:30 am, beginning September 8. This 32-week study will take us through the prophets and the letters of Paul. The cost of materials is \$40, and you can sign up at the welcome center.



# UPCOMING STUDIES (CONT.)

## Serving from the Heart

The lay leadership committee is sponsoring a short-term formational opportunity on Sunday, August 21 at 1:00 pm. If you've heard of spiritual gifts, but don't know anything about them, what your gifts are, or how to use them, you'll want to sign up by August 12 at the welcome center or by contacting the church office. Childcare will be available upon request.

## Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry will actually kick off again September 7, at 6:30 am. Youth will meet for breakfast at the church, and then split into middle school and high school groups for Bible study. These breakfast meetings will occur each Wednesday during the school year when school is in session. We'll also have a few fun fellowship activities throughout the year, including a bonfire, progressive dinner, laser tag, and lake house party.

## Kids' Club

Kids' Club will start again on September 7. We'll be meeting from 3:00 to 5:00 pm this year, and will provide transportation from Washington Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School. Students will stay in their school groups this year for recreation, snacks, Bible study, and music. Make sure to invite a friend to join us!

## Confirmation

We'll be hosting confirmation this fall during the Sunday school time for youth grades 6-8. It's mentor-based, and they'll be studying the basic tenets of faith. If you have a youth who is interested in participating, or if you would be willing to serve as a mentor, please contact Pastor Jay. Classes will begin in October.

# EVENTS TO NOTE

## Summer Movie Series

Our summer movie series continues throughout August. Showtimes for evening movies are at 6:30 pm each Sunday, with free popcorn and drinks!

## NOW Kids' Glow Run

The registration deadline has already passed (in order to get a t-shirt), but you can still register by calling Angel Kerner at 544-3111. The Run is at Washington Park, with registration at 7:00 pm, and the run beginning at 8:00 pm. Please contact Angel if you are interested in volunteering.

## NOW Kids' Shopping Day

Our annual shopping days for NOW kids are on August 8 from 4:00-7:00 pm, and on August 9 from 9:00 am to noon. During those days, we will offer children the chance to work with a personal shopper to select new clothing, toiletries, shoes, and school supplies. This year, children will also have a chance to get a haircut. If you are willing to help as a personal shopper, or with set-up, please sign up at the welcome center.

## 2nd Wednesday Dinner

Our 2nd Wednesday Dinner occurs on August 10 at 5:30 pm. The Praise Fest Committee is putting together a salad bar and desserts for dinner as a fundraiser. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Please sign up at the welcome center and support this great outreach event.

## Praise Fest

Saturday, August 20th, from 4-9 PM @ FUMC! Bring your friends, your family, and invite at least one person you don't know to THE Christian event of the summer. A full evening of praise and glory for God has been planned. We have joined with many local churches to bring you an evening full of music, games, a cake walk, free food, and fellowship. Planned performances will include My Anchor Holds, The EIU Wesley Foundation Praise Band, Abby Siler, Mike Tracy, 4C's Praise Band, Robinwood Assembly of God's Praise Band, and Highland Church of Christ's Praise Band. Help make this event a success by attending and getting the word out. Volunteers, baked goods, and donations are still needed. Sign up sheets are in the welcome center.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/03 Alice Holtzhouser, Jay Holtzhouser
- 8/04 Mike Parker
- 8/06 Jan Kelly
- 8/07 Tyler Carter, Ellen Wilson, Nancy Mattsey
- 8/08 Brian Wilson
- 8/09 Janis Brigham
- 8/10 Phuong Quick, Kevin Harness,  
Daphine Devonshire, Hannah Britton
- 8/12 Matthew Schmidlin
- 8/13 Kirbie Ackman
- 8/14 Don Heleine
- 8/15 Janet Clark
- 8/16 Leslee Thomas
- 8/17 Emmanuel Regennitter
- 8/22 Myra Jones, Joyce Owen, Janelle Oxford
- 8/24 Lois McConnell
- 8/25 Lucille Hedges
- 8/27 Brent Owen
- 8/28 Mike Bell
- 8/29 Margaret DeMent, Antje Pippin
- 8/31 Jason Holtzhouser

# AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/03 Brandon & Melinda Harmon
- 8/04 Jim & Suzanne Wallace
- 8/10 John & Thelm Gifford
- 8/15 Julie & Brian Wilson
- 8/28 Karen & Gerald Gordy

# PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Marilyn Musgrave; Sherell Oxford; Michael Brady; Elaine Siler; Nancy Young; Amy DeDoming; Susan Rodgers and family; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Mike Richards; Betty Burgess; Charley Clark; Neema Mutayoba; Scott Campbell; Elmer & Beverly Harness; Michelle Hall; Patty Steele; Darrell Barry; Rick Morris; Mike Richards; Joseph Hartke; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; family of Gary Wampler; family of Blake Smith; Terry Inboden



## SPREAD THE WORD

Dear Friends,  
We are quickly approaching another school year, and that means there will be another batch of freshmen students joining the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. This year we will give out our 150th Sports Bible to students in Robinson, but we can't do it without your generous donations. Please give to the Spread the Word program so that together we can spread the word about God.



# AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1 9:30 am Library Reorganization 6:00 pm Praise Fest Committee	2 10:30 am NOW Packing 10:45am NOW Lunch in the park	3 10:30 am NOW Packing 10:45am NOW Lunch in the park	4 10:30 am NOW Packing 10:45am NOW Lunch in the park 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	5	6 7:00 pm NOW Glow: Fun walk/run
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7 8:30 am Finance Meeting 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Church Council Meeting 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm NOW Shopping Day set up 6:30 pm Movie series	8 9:30 am Library Reorganization 4:00 pm NOW Shopping Day	9 9:00 am NOW Shopping Day 6:00 pm SPRC	10 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Worship Committee	11 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	12	13
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14 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 2:30 pm Worship service at Heritage Health 6:30 pm Movie Series	15 9:30 am Library Reorganization	16	17 6:00 pm Lay Leadership Meeting	18 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	19	20 4:00 pm Praise Fest
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21 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Spiritual Gifts class 6:30 pm Movie Series	22 9:30 am Library Reorganization	23 9:00 am Clergy Consultations 6:00 pm Outreach Committee	24 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting	25 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	26	27
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28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Movie series	29 9:30 am Library Reorganization	30	31			
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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[brennansethtracy@gmail.com](mailto:brennansethtracy@gmail.com)

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[antje2959@hotmail.com](mailto:antje2959@hotmail.com)

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

[doubleg@mediacombb.net](mailto:doubleg@mediacombb.net)

Custodian: Harold Guyer

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller