



# From the Pastor's Desk

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For several years we have had the tradition of supporting our youth program through our Easter offering. That is our direction again this year and it comes at an exciting time in our youth ministry. We will graduate a large class of seniors, confirm six youth on April 23rd, and have just hired a new Children and Youth Coordinator - Sage Lintner - who is young and full of energy and ideas to serve our children and youth. Your Easter offering serves as an investment in our youth, which in turn is always an investment in the future of our church.

It is such a joy to have been a part of this congregation long enough to watch some of our children grow up and I am so thankful for the commitment we make to their faith development.

One other very important item to remember this year is that weekly worship services at our DeSoto site will begin April 2. These services follow months of Wednesday evening youth ministry, which currently reaches 35 to 40 children each week. Many of these children and their families have no church affiliation and it is our hope and prayer they may find a church home in this new congregation.

As we celebrate this season of resurrection we have the privilege to witness its truth in our DeSoto site. I believe God called us to come together with others in order to witness what God was about to do. Out of a dying church God has brought new life and hope, touching the hearts of dozens each week.

May God richly bless you as you offer your Easter gift in thanksgiving for all God is doing in our midst.

See you in worship,  
 Larry

**WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**DEADLINE**  
 is Wednesday  
 at  
 10:00 a.m.



May *Compass*  
 Deadline  
 is April 17th  
 THANKS

**NOISY MISSION OFFERING**  
**in April is**  
**going to**  
**Senior Fest**



<b>1</b>	9:00 am	Handbell Practice	<b>11</b>	9:00 am	Precept Bible Study	<b>19</b>	9:00 am	Nurture and Care
	10:00 am	AA		12:00 pm	Young at Heart		6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
<b>2</b>	5:00 pm	Precept Bible Study		6:00 pm	Board of Trustees			Choir Practice
<b>3</b>	6:30 pm	Children/Youth Spiritual Formation		6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal		7:00 pm	Service & Missions
	7:00 pm	AA Big Book		7:00 pm	Finance Committee			Staff Parish Relations
<b>4</b>	9:00 am	Precept Bible Study	<b>12</b>	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts			AA and Al-Anon
	11:30 am	A-Team			Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	9:00 am	Handbell Practice
	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts		6:30 pm	Publicity & Promotions		10:00 am	AA
	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal		7:00 pm	Bible Journaling	<b>24</b>	6:30 pm	Unbinding the Gospel
<b>5</b>	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts			AA and Al-Anon		6:30 pm	Bald Knob Cross
		Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	5:30 pm	Daisies & Brownies		7:00 pm	AA Big Book
	7:00 pm	AA and Al-Anon		6:45 pm	Girl Scout Juniors	<b>25</b>	9:00 am	Biblical Feasts Study
<b>6</b>	6:00 pm	Scout Roundtable		7:00 pm	Tenebrae Service		6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
<b>7</b>	8:30 am	Adult Spiritual Formation	<b>14</b>	9:30 am	Feeder of the Pack		6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
<b>8</b>	7:30 am	UMM Breakfast	<b>15</b>	9:00 am	Handbell Practice			Hospitality Team
	9:00 am	Handbells		10:00 am	AA	<b>26</b>	9:00 am	Holy Folders
	10:00 am	AA		10:15 am	Book Club		6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
<b>9</b>	1:30 pm	New Member Orientation	<b>17</b>		Meals on Wheels Week			Choir Practice
	5:00 pm	Precept Study		6:30 pm	Unbinding the Gospel			AA and Al-Anon
<b>10</b>	7:00 pm	AA Big Book	<b>18</b>	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts	<b>27</b>	5:30 pm	Daisies & Brownies
				6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal		6:30 pm	Pilgrimage Module 3
							6:45 pm	Girl Scout Juniors
						<b>28</b>	5:00 pm	Youth Lock-in with East Alton
						<b>29</b>	9:00 am	Handbell Practice
							10:00 am	AA
						<b>30</b>	12:00 pm	Our Neighbor's Table



<b>3</b>	Janis & Jerry Crews
<b>8</b>	Myrrl & Ray Burroughs
<b>15</b>	Mary Ellen & Patrick Brown
<b>20</b>	Brittni & James Heilig
	Vanessa & Todd Lirely
<b>24</b>	Tonia & Bob Purcell



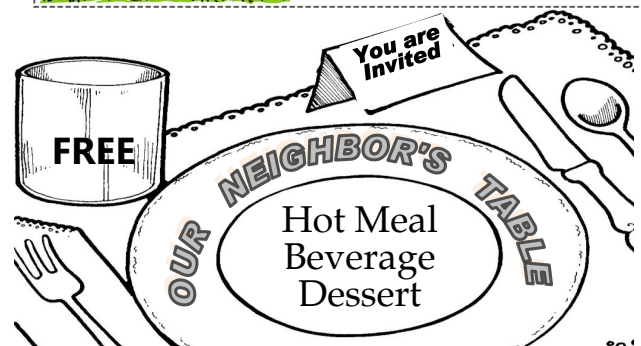
**UNITED METHODIST MEN** Saturday, April 8th at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, men of the church will gather for breakfast and fellowship. All men of the church are invited.



<b>3</b>	Clifton Buchholz	<b>15</b>	Katlyn Abbadusky	<b>21</b>	Lacey Brown
<b>4</b>	Gloria Stoker		Kay Bozarth		Megan Mileur
	Perry Patterson	<b>16</b>	Glenda Martin		William Mileur
<b>5</b>	Caroline Guthman		Sam Chapa	<b>22</b>	Sylvia Frank
	Lou Anne Lough	<b>18</b>	Rosemary Cornell	<b>24</b>	Jay Graff
	Mikaila Panepinto	<b>20</b>	Cadence Brown		Bob Winters
	Mya Rushing		Nancy Fager	<b>27</b>	Mildred Ward
<b>6</b>	Geraldine McConnell		Ed O'Donnell	<b>28</b>	Tiara Bradford
<b>9</b>	Katherine Yearian		Thelma Pierson		Michael Dreith
<b>10</b>	Aiden McNitt	<b>21</b>	Angie Baughman	<b>29</b>	Megan McNitt
<b>13</b>	Durice Runge		Heather Bean	<b>30</b>	Brittany Nolan
			Brianna Berger		



**SAVE YOUR STUFF!!**  
The annual **YARD SALE** for **MISSIONS** will be **July 21st-22nd!**  
Watch for more details!



**LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Please note new or changed email address:

**Jill Rogers:** deumcsiteleader@gmail.com

**Sage Lintner:** mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com

**Jennifer O'Donnell:** deumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com

**Tina Nimmo:** tnimmo26@gmail.com



## WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the [Stephen Series](#) system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. If you have a need or you are interested in training, please contact our Visitation Minister Michelle Parker-Clark at 618-922-3587.



Mary Ellen Tierney, Cheryl Smith, Clara Kiser, Lynn Pierson, Barb Hughes, Sharon Graff, Richard Tierney, Ed O'Donnell, Michelle Parker-Clark (leader)



Lynn Pierson, Mary Ellen Tierney, & Richard Tierney

*I always said that I was a good caregiver, not a good patient. After a very short time into the Stephen Ministry training, I figured out that I was not a good caregiver either. I was an enabler, or a "fixer." Through the hours of training, and learning, I believe I CAN be a Christian caregiver. God is the curegiver and I the caregiver. I continue to pray that God will use me to funnel his words and teachings into my care receiver. He alone will do the*

*Bear one another's burdens  
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



*curing and healing. I look forward to meeting my first care receiver and trust that God will lead me through that process.* Barb Hughes

*I am excited about the way our training has encouraged me to embark on a ministry of care giving. I have the greatest respect for care givers, but I did not believe that I would be effective in that type of outreach. I was afraid of not knowing what to say or how to help. Stephen Ministry training dissolved those fears by providing me with an easy-to-use framework for interacting with people who are hurting. More importantly, I learned that God will do the heavy lifting by providing the answers our care receivers need. My job will be to help the care receiver become open to the guidance that God provides. In other words, God will heal the pain. All I have to do is provide a channel for God's grace by facilitating the healing process. I think I can do that!* Ed O'Donnell



Sharon Graff & Barb Hughes

**Matt Vollmar provided worship music and the message on March 1st. Troy and Lacey Brown introduced him. Isn't that a cute grin on Troy's face?**





April 11th  
CELEBRATE SPRING  
12:00 pm NOON  
Fellowship Hall

**MENU:**

Baked Chicken  
Broccoli w/cheese  
Sunshine Salad  
Rolls  
Lemon Cake

**Program:** Chad Roberts,  
Chief of Police with the  
Murphysboro Police  
Department will be the  
guest speaker.

**Meals are \$6 a plate.**

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change and you cannot attend, please contact the church office by the Monday before. Otherwise YAH members must pay for the meal that was ordered for you. Thanks.

*Young at Heart is a group of senior adults that meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, for food, fellowship and a program.*

## The Pilgrimage

A Journey on the  
Trail of Discipleship

### PILGRIMAGE MODULE 3: "What is the Bible"

April 27, May 4 and May 18

6:30—8:00 p.m. in Room 204.

Sessions will be led by Pastor Larry.

The Pilgrimage ministry grew out of the request of members of the congregation to offer something for adults like the confirmation experience for our youth. Modules 1 and 2 focused on 'What is Worship?' and 'Who is Jesus?' Future modules 4 and 5 are entitled 'What is the UMC?' and 'What are Spiritual Disciplines?' respectively. (Module 4 contains a travel experience to Nashville, TN to visit the UMC General Board offices.) Each module is a stand-alone unit, so you need not have participated in Modules 1 and 2 or commit to Modules 4 and 5 to participate in Module 3. Those participating in Module 3 will learn about: the structure of the Bible, how the Bible was put together, resources for reading the Bible, types of literature in the Bible, and major Bible themes. The Pilgrimage was designed for mature teens and adults. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for Module 3 using the Registration and Attendance Sheet, or contact the church office.

### ATTENTION ALL UNITED METHODIST MEN Lifeway Main Event/Nashville July 28th & 29th NO MAN IS CALLED TO LIVE AN ORDINARY LIFE FOR GOD

When do we leave? Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. by bus and/or cars.

When do we get back? Saturday at 4 p.m. or thereabouts.

How much is the cost? \$65 for registration received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Lodging will run \$50 each. Meals are extra!

Who to contact: To avoid mix-ups, please contact Jay Graff at 618 967-9848 or Rob Williams at 618-713-0843.

The conference will feature the presenters pictured below. Kurt Warner is a National Football League Hall of Famer and Darryl Strawberry a former MLB star is now a motivational speaker. All the presenters will offer insight into their Christian lives and their faith in God.

You can expect a large crowd and to meet and talk with many folks you may meet only once. Listen to them as they share their faith experiences. Come on & join us!

Kurt Warner, Darryl Strawberry, the Benham Brothers, Russell Moore, Rick Burgess, JD Greear, Robby Gallaty, Eric Geiger, Tim Timmons, Brad Stine & More



### Children's Church Volunteers are STILL needed.

Please consider becoming part of this vital ministry. Positions are available for 2nd Sunday of every month for Traditional service and 4th Sunday of every month for Praise Service.

Please contact Emily Hargraves at 618-559-0329 or [ehargraves88@gmail.com](mailto:ehargraves88@gmail.com) for more information.







From left: *Jessica Seals, Jill Rogers, Tina Nimmo, and Tara Taborn*

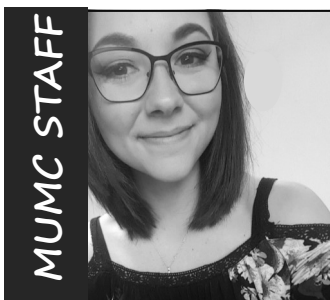
**Jessica Seals** joined the DeSoto team back in the fall. In her position as Mid-Week Program Assistant, Jessica assists program leaders with crafts, games, stories, etc. She came to us through an association with Trinity Christian School where she serves as a substitute teacher. She is a native of Mattoon, IL. Jessica earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. She currently resides in Carbondale with sons Jake (13), Eli (11), and Jonah (8) who participate at Agape House and love it! She enjoys traveling and other fun family adventures like water parks, castle park, hiking at Giant City, and Miners baseball games. She is excited about the ministry of Agape House and DeSoto UMC. God is already doing amazing things that only He could do, and she cannot wait to see what He has in store!

**Jill Rogers** came onboard the DeSoto project last month as DeSoto Site Leader. As Site Leader, Jill provides leadership for all aspects of ministry, including worship, administration and outreach. Jill is approaching a second decade milestone in leadership and ministry, including with small groups, as a lay pastor, for a Celebrate Recovery group, as facilitator for Hope and Healing classes, and Al Anon Family Groups. Most recently she became certified in Thorough Format and Issue Focused ministries through Restoring the Foundation Ministries. Jill is a native of Roxanna, IL. Jill currently resides in Murphysboro with husband, Marty. She enjoys riding in the convertible with Marty, spending time with family, swimming, getting to know new people, speaking engagements and writing a book about her life.

**Tina Nimmo** is serving as an Intern at DeSoto. This Illinois Great Rivers Conference internship permits Tina to provide coordination and support for the Wednesday night Agape House. She has worked in early childhood education for over ten years and is pursuing a degree in liberal arts. Several years ago Tina did an outstanding job as a Substitute Nursery Attendant at MUMC. Tina is a native of DeSoto where she resides with husband, Jason, and children Tyler (14), James (12), Jude (11) and Gregory (3). She is considering pursuit of a job as a youth pastor. Her dream is to be able to foster kids when her three oldest children are out of high school.

**Tara Taborn** began serving as DeSoto Nursery Attendant around the first of the year. In that role, Tara coordinates care, monitors nursery cleanliness and supplies, and ensures the safety of babies and toddlers. She also teaches at TLC Developmental Preschool in Carterville, and spent nearly ten years teaching at Haven of Love Daycare in Carbondale. Tara graduated Frankfort Community High, and she is pursuing an Associate's degree in Early Childhood from John A. Logan/Southeastern Illinois College. Tara currently resides in DeSoto with husband, Jorge, and daughters Alexia and Makayla.

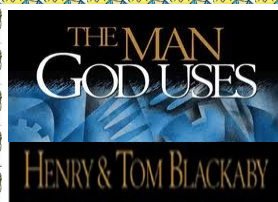
**Angie Baughman**, Merger Project Coordinator;  
**Jennifer O'Donnell**, DeUMC Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator; **Mike and Casey Johnstone**, Caretakers; plus several volunteers comprise the balance of staff at DeSoto.



*Sage Lintner*

Let's also welcome **Sage Lintner** who accepted the position, MUMC Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, effective early March. Several from our congregation know Sage through her work at Little Grassy where she spent last summer as a Summer Camp Counselor. Three years prior she volunteered at Little Grassy as a Counselor-in-Training. As a matter of fact, Sage has a long history with Little Grassy. She was raised in the Methodist Church and enjoyed Little Grassy as a camper. Sage earned an Associate's degree in Business from Rend Lake, and is currently a junior working toward a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources from Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. Sage is a native of Thompsonville and currently resides in Anna, IL.

~Staff Parish Relations Committee



## New Men's Book Study

A dynamic study that helps Christian men know and understand God's will for their life. Led by Richard Tierney

Sign up on the attendance pad or contact Richard at 618-684-8847.

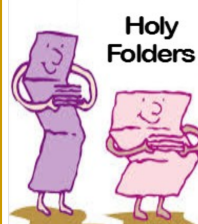
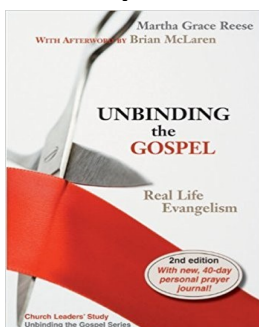
Dates & Time will be determined by participants.

## Unbinding the Gospel

**Mondays beginning April 17th at 7pm**

A 10 week study based on the book "Unbinding the Gospel" by Martha Grace Reece. This represents a new look at the calling Jesus gave us to be the church IN the world. A basic look at physical ministry in the community around us and how we as the followers can make a difference in the community and cause others to want to know Jesus. Martha backs up the information she provides with strong scriptural basis coupled with simple practical application.

Roger and Cheryl Smith-Co-leaders



The Holy Folders are pleased to welcome Dave Auxier back to their team—and they'd like to welcome **YOU** too! The Folders meet at **9 am, the last Wednesday of every month**, to fold and label the Compass Newsletter. Several members have recently had to step down from this service to the congregation, and more help is needed. **Please check the Holy Folders box on the Attendance sheet, or call the church office at 618-687-2317**, if you would like to join this dedicated group!

## Bible Journaling Your FAITH

**April 12th 7-8:30 pm in Room 204**

"Journaling Your Faith" is an exciting and creative process of making art in your Bible as a way to worship God and connect deeper with Scriptures. As you are writing, drawing, coloring and embellishing pages, you are also meditating over the words and thinking about what God is teaching you. Bible journaling is a tangible, visual way to remember Scripture and connect with it personally. Please note you do not have to be an artist and you do not need fancy supplies to Bible journal. Your Bible will look nothing like anyone else's Bible. The process will be fun and relaxing, not stress inducing. Contact Rosie Wece 618-559-8167 or Patti Shields 618-534-1475 with questions.

## 9th Annual MUMC Women's Prayer Breakfast

### "Reflections of the Heart"

Saturday, May 6th, from 9-11 a.m.  
in the MUMC Fellowship Hall.

Speaker, music, light breakfast, door prizes and heartwarming fellowship with other women.

Reservations for a table of eight can be made if requested.

Tickets are \$7 each and will be on sale after each service on April 9th and 16th.

For women of all ages 13 and over. Childcare provided.



## ANYONE HUNGRY?

### Methodists on a Mission Relay for Life Team &



Are teaming up for a fundraiser against cancer! So head to **Denny's on Thursday, April 13th from 7 a.m. until Friday, April 14th at 7 a.m. That's 24 hours!** All you have to do is show up, eat, and pay your bill! Denny's will do the rest. A percentage of all the sales will go to Relay for Life.

Pass it on!

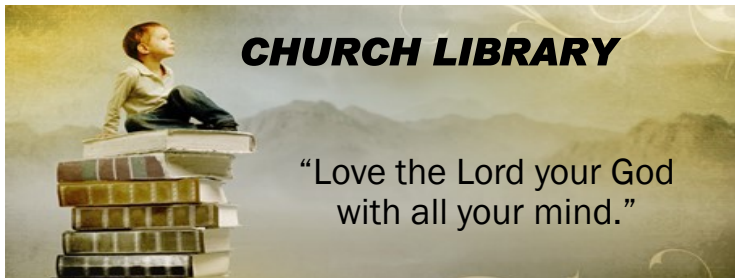
And then...How about some real "comfort food"...

**Sunday, April 23**, the Relay for Life team is having their **annual fundraiser at the KC Hall**. The menu is chicken and dumplings with all the trimmings. Homemade desserts will also be on the menu.

The meal will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$12 Adults, \$6 Children ages 5-11, children 4 and under eat free. Advanced tickets may be purchased from any Relay for Life Member. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**





## The Library Corner:

The Library Corner: Heaven

*"Today you will be with me in paradise"* Jesus told the thief who was beside him, hanging on a cross on Golgotha. The thief knew his own guilt, and recognizing that Jesus had something he wanted to be part of, he had asked Jesus to "remember me when you come into your kingdom."

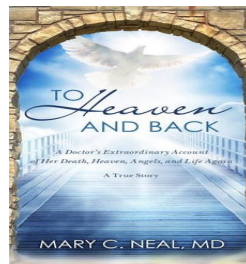
Adam Hamilton discusses these words of Jesus in his study **Final Words from the Cross**. The main point is that the thief, and hopefully we too, will be with Jesus. But we wonder about paradise - heaven - what is that like? In a brief interesting discussion, Hamilton draws a parallel between paradise and Eden, and notes that the word for paradise can be traced back to a Persian word for the "king's garden." What a wonderful possibility—to be, by God's mercy, in God's garden.

Other authors have written about heaven, some from Bible research, and others from what they assert are their personal experience of death or near death and then coming back to life. Here are several of those books in the church library:

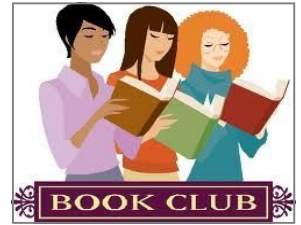
**Heaven**, by Randy Alcorn. Alcorn has spent years researching what the Bible has to tell us about heaven, which gives a theological background to what he has to say, while also giving his answers to many questions that people have, such as "will our pets go to heaven?"

**90 Minutes in Heaven: a True Story of Death and Life**, by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey. Piper is an ordained minister who was in a deadly car accident. He says he was pronounced dead at the scene, but 90 minutes later a Baptist minister arrived on the scene and prayed over him, and he revived. He gives an account of his experience in heaven, and also the very difficult time he had recovering.

**To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Account of her Death, Heaven, and Angels, and Life Again**, by Mary C. Neal, MD. Neal, an orthopaedic surgeon, gives a straightforward summary of her life, her developing relationship with God, and then about a kayaking trip in South America where a freak accident keeps her and her kayak under water for many minutes. During that time she describes the distinct sense of being held by Jesus, and the sight of spiritual beings that appear to escort her to heaven. She experiences a kind of life review, in which she says "... I was able to see clearly that every decision, every human interaction impacts the bigger world in far more significant ways than we could ever be capable of appreciating." (p. 57)



**MUMC**  
**Saturday**  
**Morning**



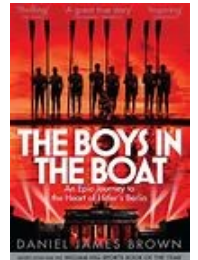
Join the discussion on : *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*

by Daniel James Brown

Saturday, April 15th at 10:15 am

\*\*\*

Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936.



The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together—a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism.

Drawing on the boys' own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

Read Ahead:

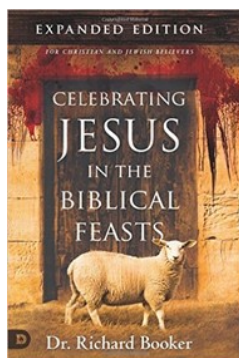
The Book for May is *In His Steps*  
by Charles M. Sheldon

**Heaven is for Real** by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent. This is the story of the very young Colton Burpo who after a severe illness and surgery eventually tells his parents many details about seeing Jesus and who he saw in heaven, where Colton says "Nobody is old, and nobody wears glasses." The library also has a DVD that dramatizes the story of Colton and his parents.

You will find these books on the library table in the upstairs hall, or in the library downstairs.

## Short Study on Jewish Feasts & Festivals

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Jewish Feasts and Festivals that are mentioned throughout the bible? Join us for a two-week closer look at their history and discover how they are still significant to you as a Christian today. Please obtain the book (available at amazon.com) and do the readings prior to the class. For more information, contact Angie Baughman at 618-201-0139 or [angie\\_baughman@hotmail.com](mailto:angie_baughman@hotmail.com).



Session One - April 25 from 9:00 - 10:30 am  
The Jewish Calendar & Passover Feast  
Reading: Chapters 1-4

Session Two - May 2 from 9:00 - 10:30 am  
Pentecost & Tabernacle Feasts  
Reading: Chapters 5-8



**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**Join us for**  
**HERO CENTRAL**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 9 -13,**  
**2017**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**Be a hero - contact Tonya Walker**

## 40 Days of Prayer

Please join others in the MUMC congregation who have committed to praying daily for our DeSoto site. Weekly worship begins at DeUMC on Sunday, April 2. Will you include the congregation, ministries, outreach events and Agape House activities at DeUMC in your prayers during this season of Lent?

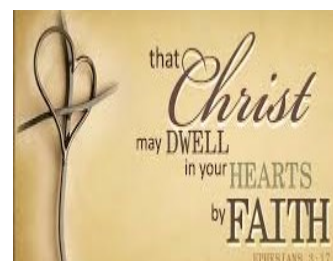


Prayer calendars are available on the table at the north entrance to the Sanctuary throughout Lent.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Please come and share in the public profession of faith by our youth in their completion of confirmation based on two years of study, exploring the 5 module topics of:

- Who is Jesus
- What is the Bible
- Spiritual Disciplines
- What is the Church
- What is Worship



The confirmation youth also participated in two summer trips, one to Nashville, Tennessee to learn about the United Methodist boards and agencies, and one to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to experience the Passion Play. This is a huge milestone in the lives of our youth. There will be 3 confirmands in each service; please plan to come support them!

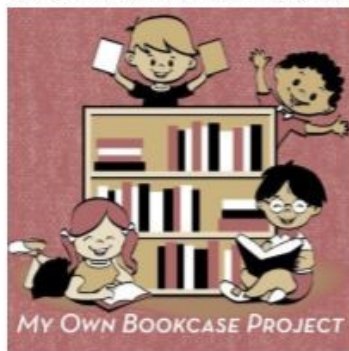
## MY OWN BOOKCASE

### 3rd Annual Project

Because we believe that reading is a fundamental part of a child's ability to learn, we are excited to announce the "My Own Bookcase" project. This project is co-sponsored by the Murphysboro United Methodist Church and the Murphysboro Kiwanis Club, and our goal is to improve literacy in children in our community.

This project will provide 35 children in the Murphysboro Head Start program who will be entering Kindergarten this fall with their very own bookcase and a starter set of books. Each bookcase will be handmade by volunteers in our community and will be given to the children in a special Presentation Ceremony in May.

To quote author Emilie Buchwald, "Children become readers on the laps of their parents." When children have their own books in the home and their families have easy access to books, parents are more likely to read to their children. Our mission is to encourage parents to read to their children by providing them with the opportunity to do so.



Please help us achieve our goal of presenting each of these 35 children with their very own bookcase and books by becoming a "My Own Bookcase" Project sponsor. The cost of sponsorship is \$50, and will cover the cost of materials for a bookcase and a starter set of books. If you cannot sponsor a bookcase at this time, any monetary donation you can make would be appreciated. Your generous support will make a positive and everlasting difference in the life of a child.

Sincerely,

Trina Eaton, My Own Bookcase Project  
Murphysboro United Methodist Church

Kathy Baumann, President  
Murphysboro Kiwanis



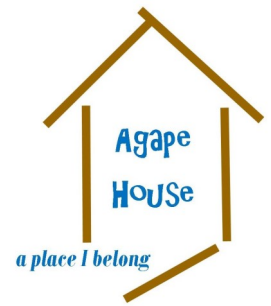
Yes, I would like to support this project and make a difference in the life of a child in our community. Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to the Murphysboro United Methodist Church, note, "My Own Bookcase" on the memo line and drop in the offering plate or mail to 1500 Pine St., Murphysboro, IL 62966.

*CHILDREN BECOME READERS ON THE LAPS OF THEIR PARENTS*



The launch of weekly worship is here! The summer of 2016 was filled with making plans, the fall and winter of 2016 brought the beginnings of Agape House, and now the spring is here and we will be witness to a new congregation at DeUMC being formed. Thank you for your prayers, your service and your financial gifts. In whatever ways you have contributed to this project, it has helped to get us where we are.



### Building Progress

Decisions have been made to move forward with some necessary sound, lighting and painting updates. We are hopeful most of this work will be complete by Easter Sunday. Kristi Miller has agreed to help put our Agape House logo on one wall in the sanctuary, and Jill Rogers and Jennifer O'Donnell are working on a birthday wall for the Agape House participants on a wall outside the kitchen area. The building is more and more reflecting the ministry that is active within the church.

Angie Baughman, DeSoto Site Coordinator

Agape House numbers are increasing steadily each week. We had an all-time high of 42 kiddos on one evening. To say we are bursting at the seams is an understatement. With the weather warming we hope to go outside to create more space. It is exciting to see young people bringing their friends to a place they feel comfortable. If you are interested in helping out on a Wednesday evening please contact me at

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

Jennifer O'Donnell, DeSoto Children & Youth Coordinator

### Upcoming Activities

April 1 - Prayer Service at 12:30 pm

April 2 - Weekly Worship Begins at 10:15 am

April 16 - Easter Worship with Holy Communion at 10:15 am

June 12, 19, 26 - Children's Storytime at the gazebo 10:00 am

## APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Prayer Svc 12:30
2 Informal Worship 10:15 am	3	4	5 Agape House 5:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Informal Worship 10:15 am	10	11	12 Agape House 5:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Informal Worship 10:15 am EASTER	17	18	19 Agape House 5:30 pm	20	21	22
23 Informal Worship 10:15 am	24	25	26 Agape House 5:30 pm	27	28	29
30 Informal Worship 10:15 am						

## MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Agape House	4	5	6
7 Informal Worship 10:15 am	8	9	10 Agape House 5:30 pm	11	12	13
14 Informal-Worship 10:15 am	15	16	17 Agape House 5:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Informal Worship 10:15 am	22	23	24 Agape House Party	25	26	27
28 Informal Worship 10:15 am	29	30	31			

## YOUTH GROUPS

Leader-organized events happen throughout the year. Some events include all groups and others are age specific.

Questions? Contact a leader for your group.

**CYF: Children's Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)**

Leaders: Jennifer Watson 618-713-5269 and Irma Bigham 618-318-0435

**JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)**

Leaders: Diane Schingel 618-303-3757 and Laurie Nehring 618-303-2777

**SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)**

Leaders: Stephanie Finke 618-713-4059 and Shannon Vincent 618-525-4183

Do you have the SPRING TIME JITTERS??

Are you ready for Summer?

It will be here before you know it...



and camp registration is happening...**NOW!**

Pick up a Little Grassy Camp brochure and prices at the back of the sanctuary. Chris Nolan will have health and registration forms for you to complete on **April 2nd** in the Fellowship Hall.

**Snapshots from Youth Sunday  
March 8, 2017**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME?

Spero Family Services, formerly the United Methodist Children's Home in Mt. Vernon, IL, is proud and honored to announce that we will assume ownership and management of the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in Murphysboro as of April 1, 2017. The Masons have pledged to honor their financial commitment to the residents that are currently at the home in Murphysboro. The 15 youth residents were grateful to know that they will remain at the home, and that the 15 home staff will also remain. This allows the kids to remain in the care of people they already know and trust. Initially, very little will change at the Murphysboro site, but eventually we would like to introduce some of the same programs offered through the Mount Vernon facility. Our Mt. Vernon site has provided residential homes and treatment for youth and young adults ages 12-21 since 1921, and houses up to 36 youth today.



The former UMCH changed its name to Spero Family Services as of April 1, 2017, and the Murphysboro site will be called 'Spero Youth Homes'. Our name change came after much prayer and deliberation of our board, and hope that the new name will convey more clearly that Spero is not simply an orphanage anymore. We now offer a vast array of programs and services to our local communities in Southern Illinois - such as Spero Counseling and Wellness Center, a Family Foundations program, a Foster Parent program, a Nurse-Family partnership program to help first-time mothers, a YouthBuild program offering GED and certifications to youth, and more!

Our organization continues to grow as God allows, and also because of the tremendous support we receive from our donors, local business, and the United Methodist family. It's those strong faith foundations and rich history with the UM family which gives us a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with those we serve on a daily basis when able. We are grateful for the United Methodist support and commitment to our organization over the past 104 years and look forward to keeping that connection for years to come.

Again, we are proud to be part of the Murphysboro community, and will now be offering hope, help, and healing to the youth living in the Murphysboro home - our newest member of the growing Spero family! Please contact us directly, at 618-242-1070 or visit [www.sperofs.org](http://www.sperofs.org) to learn more about our organization and the programs and services we offer throughout Southern Illinois.



APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS		
TRADITIONAL		PRAISE
	<b>Worship Leaders</b> mumcministries@gmail.com	
	Jon Lough	Ed O'Donnell
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Welcome Hostesses</b>	
2	Laurie Nehring and Barb Giffin	
9	Laurie Nehring and Barb Giffin	
16	Sharon Graff and Marilyn Perry	
23	Arlene Bitner and Susan Patterson	
30	Arlene Bitner and Susan Patterson	
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	
2	Caroline Guthman and Brianna Carnes	
9	Phoebe Heller and Maggie Jenkins	
16	Maya Jenkins and Harper Geis	
23	Conner Twenhafel and Wesley Graham	
30	Brandon Ottwell and Tiara Bradford	
	<b>Stewards</b>	
	Dick Graff, Todd Lirely, Richard Pierson and Gene Schwebel	



APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS		
TRADITIONAL		PRAISE
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Prayer Request Reader</b>	
2	Gene Schwebel	Ed O'Donnell
9	Gaye Auxier	Ed O'Donnell
16	Wilma Westerfield	Ed O'Donnell
23	Lou Anne Lough	Ed O'Donnell
30	Nancy Fager	Ed O'Donnell
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Children's Church Leaders</b>	
2	Tonya Walker	TBA and Julie Wachtel
9	Laurie Nehring	Jennie & Ben Snyder
16	Lacey Brown and Rene' Doody	Scarlett & Rick Pierson
23	Diane Schingel	TBA
30	Diane Schingel	Patty Thraikill and Julie Wachtel
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Liturgists</b>	<b>Music Leaders</b>
2	Rosie Wece	Lacey Brown
9	Pam Graham	Brian Vincent
16	Gaye Auxier	Lacey Brown
23	Mason Schingel	Brian Vincent
30	Lowell Heller	Lacey Brown
	<b>Ushers</b>	
	Todd Lirely, Scott Ballard, Sandy Herring, Ralph Bastien, Dick Graff, and Vanessa Lirely	Rick Pierson and Brant Wingerter
	<b>Recycling:</b> Perry Patterson	

## Holy Week Services

This year our Holy week services will look and feel a little different. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday and for several years our Palm Sunday service has begun with the celebration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and ended with a focus on the Passion of Jesus and the stripping of the sanctuary. This year the stripping of the sanctuary will be blended into the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service as part of a dramatic illustration to accompany our reflection on the passion and death of Jesus. Again this year several carefully selected musical numbers will supplement the Tenebrae readings and our experience of these dark but grace-filled moments.

I encourage you now to place this service on your calendar to insure that your Lent /Easter experience leads you to the shadow of the cross before the miracle of the empty tomb.

### Palm Sunday, April 9

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.

DeSoto Worship 10:15 a.m.

Praise Worship 11:15 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13** Service of Tenebrae and Stripping of the Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Interfaith Service** at 1st Christian Church, April 14 noon

**Easter Sunrise Service** at Bald Knob Cross, April 16

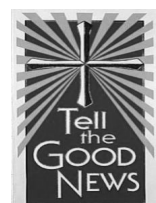
Easter Sunday, April 16

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.

DeSoto Worship 10:15 a.m.

Praise Worship 11:15 a.m.

The last Sunday in April will feature a sermon from the **Good News** sermon series. The message will be God Calls: "Come and Rest" and the service will feature the song **Breathe** by Jonny Diaz. We hope you will be able to experience this special service which is sure to inspire your hope and faith.



**MURPHYSBORO  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1500 Pine Street  
Murphysboro, IL 62966



**DESOTO  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
211 W Lincoln St  
DeSoto, IL 62924

**OFFICE HOURS at MUMC**

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604

E-Mail: [murphysboroumc@gmail.com](mailto:murphysboroumc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.murphysboroumc.com](http://www.murphysboroumc.com)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**MUMC:**

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.

Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

**DeUMC:**

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Agape House: 5:30 p.m. Each Wednesday

**Cross and Flame Staff**

Ministers..... The Congregations  
Pastor..... Larry A. Gilbert  
Minister of Visitation ..... Michelle Parker-Clark  
Financial Secretary..... Christine Nolan  
Technology Coord ..... Anne Johnson  
Webmaster..... Amanda Wingerter  
Custodian..... Pat Sullivan

**MUMC Site Staff**

Discipleship Coordinator ..... Teresa Gilbert  
Church Secretary ..... Deb Severa  
Ministry Support Asst ..... Lacey Brown  
Children/Youth Coord..... Sage Lintner  
Choir Director..... Joseph Ryker  
Pianist/Organist..... Jenny Kirby  
Nursery Attendant ..... Caitlyn Boyd  
Nursery Attendant ..... Megan Gale

**DeSoto Site Staff:**

Merger Coordinator..... Angie Baughman  
Site Leader ..... Jill Rogers  
Program Assistant ..... Jessica Seals  
Children/Youth Coord ..... Jennifer O'Donnell  
Ministry Support Intern..... Tina Nimmo  
Nursery Attendant..... Tara Taborn  
Caretakers ..... Mike & Casey Johnstone

*Return Service Requested*

**Cross and Flame Ministries  
DeSoto & Murphysboro  
United Methodist Churches**  
1500 Pine Street  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

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