



From the Pastor's Desk

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Well believe it or not the season of Lent is just around the corner, and it starts on a holiday. Yes it is true Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on February 14 –Valentines Day. However let me just say if you have a sweetheart giving up Valentine’s Day for Lent, may not be your best option. Now I must admit I am at somewhat of a loss to figure out how to blend a sweetheart Valentines Day theme into Ash Wednesday so I think I will just leave that alone. Then of course Easter falls on April first which is another day of significance for a whole other reason.

You know if I had my way this holiday conflict stuff would never happen. I must admit in over 40 years of ministry I have never really understood why Easter has to float around on the calendar. I’ve read the history, and know the tradition but it has never really made sense to me. If it were up to me Easter would be the second Sunday of April and we would leave it at that, but no one is asking me so I would not anticipate a change anytime soon.

Through the season of Lent this year our worship will focus around the words of Jesus from the cross. Each week we will examine one of Jesus remarks and the importance of these final words to his followers. When we consider the horrible circumstances in which these remarks were made it just makes sense that anything he would say during that situation must have been important. So it seems appropriate to take some time and ask ourselves what was the meaning, and importance of each of these phrases.

As we live in a world and culture that is less and less Christian, the traditions of important religious seasons and times can start to diminish for all of us. I encourage you to not allow that to happen in your own walk of faith. Lent is wonderful time to consider the often high price of loving deeply and how truly unworthy we so often are of such affection. To learn again that sacrifices, while unpleasant, are also necessary for the greater good and to have a chance to influence lives in our world.

Your Servant in Christ,
Larry A. Gilbert

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



March *Compass*
Deadline is
February 12th
THANKS

Noisy Mission Offering
In February is
going to
Our
Neighbor's
Table



1 6:00 pm Scouts Roundtable GA	13 9:00 am Precept Bible Study 12:00 pm Young at Heart	21 9:00 am Nurture & Care 9:00 am Holy Folders
2 8:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation	13 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Cub Scouts	6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir Practice
3 9:00 am Handbells 10:00 am AA	6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30 pm P & P
5 7:00 pm Men's Book Study AA Big Book	7:00 pm Finance Committee	7:00 pm AA Al-Anon
6 9:00 am Precept Bible Study 11:30 am A-Team 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Al-Anon	22 4:30 pm Stephen Ministries 5:30 pm Daisies & Brownies 6:00 pm GA
7 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Al-Anon	15 6:00 pm GA	6:45 pm Girl Scout Juniors
8 4:30 pm Stephen Ministry 5:30 pm Girl Scouts Party 6:00 pm GA	17 9:00 am Handbell Practice 10:00 am AA 10:15 am Book Club	24 9:00 am Handbell Practice 10:00 am AA
9 9:30 am Feeder of the Pack	19 Office Closed Meals On Wheels Week 7:00 pm Men's Book Study AA Big Book	25 12:00 pm Our Neighbors Table 6:30 pm Executive Council
10 7:30 am UMM Breakfast 9:00 am Handbells 10:00 am AA 11:00 am Girls Scouts Mother/Daughter Tea	20 9:00 am Precept Bible Study 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	26 7:00 pm Men's Book Study 7:00 pm AA Big Book
12 6:30 pm Children/Youth Spiritual Formation 7:00 pm Men's Book Study AA Big Book		27 9:00 am Precept Bible Study 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal Hospitality Team
		28 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir 7:00 pm AA Al-Anon

CACHE RIVER DISTRICT HAS A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY THAT IS CLOSE TO HOME. The Wesley Foundation at SIU-C is looking for churches (groups) to provide a home cooked meal for their Sunday Night Meal. Students gather at 5:30 for a meal Bible study. This is an opportunity to be in ministry with young adults & learn more about the ministry of the Wesley Foundation. If you are interested or would like more information, email Sherry Smedshammer at umwesley@siu.edu.



1 Roger Twenhafel	11 Doug Bitner	19 Marie Quigley
2 Morgan Krummrich	12 Patti Shields	Maddie Bean
3 Tyler Doody	14 Betty Morefield	20 Chris Finke
4 Joan Bastien	Casey Johnstone	22 Paul Parrish
5 Ed Thrailkill	15 Lynn Pierson	Mila Thies
6 Michelle Thies	16 Julie Schaldemose	23 Donna Lynn Horniacek
Rhonda Shands	Frank Stewart	24 Judy Little
7 Lola Pierson	Leah Patterson	Adrienne Will
8 Kyle Hargraves	18 Ralph Bastien	26 Andrew Gordon
10 Harold Gibbs		29 Joshua Barringer

12 Katherine & Martin Twenhafel
14 Viola & Paul Parrish
15 Barbara & Kevin Howard
18 Mary & Bill Slider
22 Pam & Charles Crews
24 Ada & Lowell & Heller



Teen Challenge Choir

February 11, 2018

Join us for services at MUMC at 9:00 or 11:15 am or evening service at DeUMC at 5:30 pm.

Special guest performers and speakers will provide music and personal testimonies.



Youth Sunday, February 4

BE SURE TO JOIN US AT EITHER TRADITIONAL OR PRAISE SERVICE ON FEB. 4th FOR YOUTH SUNDAY 2018

This year's special services will take on a Super Bowl theme, and we will be participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by collecting canned soup or dollars for the Murphysboro Food Pantry.



LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

February 13th
VALENTINES LUNCH
(Wear Red)
12:00 NOON
Fellowship Hall

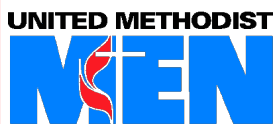


MENU:
Spaghetti with meatballs
Tossed Salad
Garlic Bread
Cherry Cheesecake

Program: Pastor Rick Sutton, of the First Christian Church of Murphysboro, will be sharing his experiences with the Murphysboro Police Chaplain's program.

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.

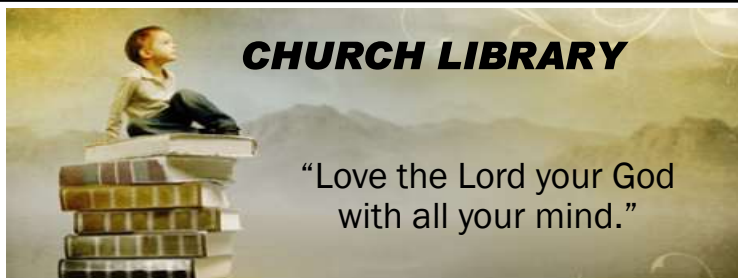


Saturday, February 10th at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, men of the church will gather for breakfast, devotional, and maybe a work project. **All men of the church are invited to attend.**



FOOD VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP.

Every Sunday evening, the Jr & Sr High have youth group in the Fellowship Hall from 4-6 pm. We are trying to fill the schedule with individuals who are willing to prepare a simple meal. Contact Sage Lintner if interested in this volunteer opportunity (618-889-7320 or mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com).



The Library Corner: Lent, Love, and Black History Month

It seems like February is too short a month to hold so many important events! Lent usually begins in February, and this year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, which is also Valentine's Day! It's also the month to celebrate and learn about black history and the lives of African American people in the U.S. Below are a few reading suggestions for this eventful month.

Lent

Adam Hamilton has written some excellent book and video studies. Here are two:

24 Hours that Changed the World, shows how events unfolded just before and during the crucifixion. The final chapter is "Jesus the Victor."

Final Words from the Cross discusses Jesus' final statements as heard by those around him. You have read these words, but Hamilton helps us really know them.

Bill Hybels also brings us the Passion Story of Jesus in the study guide **Uphill Faith**. Using Bible passages and penetrating questions Hybels helps readers reflect on how events and circumstances in Jesus' life can add meaning and "spiritual fuel" to our own.

Love

How many types of love are there? We can hardly count the ways! But try some of these and keep an eye on the library tables for more.

Gary Chapman focuses on family in "**The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts**" and "**The Five Love Languages of Children**".

There is also love for the wider world, especially for those in need. Try **LOVE: the words of Mother Teresa** and **Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption**, by Katie Davis.

God's love makes us more capable of loving. Max Lucado explores this in **A Love Worth Giving: Living in the Overflow of God's Love**. And Jen Hatmaker has thoughts for the harried lives of women in **For the Love: Fighting for Grace in a World of Impossible Standards**.

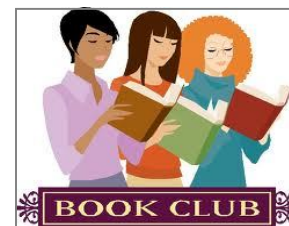
And don't you know there are some novels involving **Romance** as well!

Black History Month

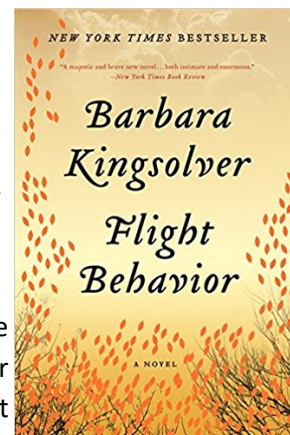
So often what happens to people gets hidden in the sweep of history. But **Twelve Years a Slave**, which has been made into a movie, brings a true event to life. Written by Solomon Northup, who was a free black living in New York in the 1840s, it tells the harrowing story of being kidnapped and enslaved.

In **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother**, James McBride tells about growing up in Brooklyn with a mother that he didn't realize was white until he was in kindergarten. A unique individual, she focused fiercely on family, education, and church. McBride has eleven brothers and sisters, and all twelve children went to college. One day he asked his mother what color God was, and she told him "*God is the color of water.*"

MUMC
Saturday
Morning



Join the discussion on
Flight Behavior
by Barbara Kingsolver
Saturday, February 17th
10:15 am



Flight Behavior takes on one of the most contentious subjects of our time: climate change. With a deft and versatile empathy Kingsolver dissects the motives that drive denial and belief in a precarious world.

Flight Behavior transfixes from its opening scene, when a young woman's narrow experience of life is thrown wide with the force of a raging fire. In the lyrical language of her native Appalachia, Barbara Kingsolver bares the rich, tarnished humanity of her novel's inhabitants and unearths the modern complexities of rural existence. Characters and reader alike are quickly carried beyond familiar territory here, into the unsettled ground of science, faith, and everyday truces between reason and conviction.

Read ahead book for March:

Waking Up White, By Debbie Irving

YOUTH GROUPS

Questions? Contact a leader for your group:

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

Leaders: Sage Lintner 618-889-7320 and
Scarlett Pierson 573-587-9106

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, in
Room 104N from 3:00 - 3:45 pm.

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

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

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.

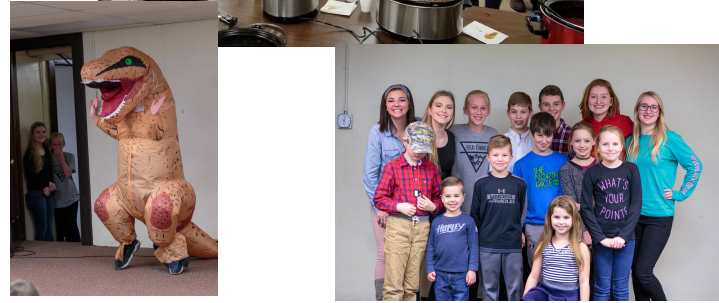
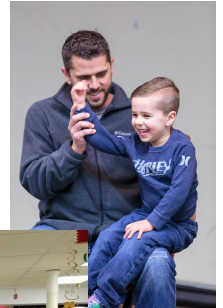
SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)

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

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.



**Highlights of the
Chili Cook-off
and
Variety Show!**



**Youth Trip to Lady of the Snows Shrine &
Ice Skating in Belleville, IL on Dec. 3rd**



**Agape House welcomes youth for fellowship,
study, and a light meal every Wednesday
from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.**

Agape House is a ministry of
DeSoto United Methodist Church.



Light Kids Concert

March 10, 9am-2pm

Aldersgate UMC Marion, IL

For children 1st-5th grade.

Any child in 1st or 2nd grade must be accompanied
by an adult and will pay full cost.


The cost of children 3rd-5th grade and CYF leaders
will be covered by the CYF fund. Sign-up sheet can
be found on the Youth Bulletin Board. All children
must have a parent sign a Liability and Medical
Release form located on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Look for more information on the Youth Bulletin
Board or contact Sage Lintner, [618-889-7320](tel:618-889-7320),

mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS		
TRADITIONAL		PRAISE
<u>Worship Leaders</u> mumcministries@gmail.com		
FEB	<u>Welcome Hostesses</u>	
4	Youth	
11	Julie Paterson & Thelma Pierson	
18	Sharon Graff & Marilyn Perry	
25	Sharon Graff & Marilyn Perry	
FEB	<u>Acolytes</u>	
4	Justin Maynor & Leeland Ashworth	
11	Caroline Guthman & Eli Guthman	
18	Maya Jenkins & Brianna Carnes	
25	Landrie Green & Nathan Ashworth	
<u>Stewards</u>		
Everett Blackwell & Jerry Giffin		

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS		
TRADITIONAL		PRAISE
FEB	<u>Prayer Request Reader</u>	
4	Youth	Youth
11	Gene Schwebel	Roger Smith
18	Wilma Westerfield	Roger Smith
25	Gaye Auxier	Roger Smith
FEB	<u>Children's Church Leaders</u>	
4	Sage Litner	Patty Thrailkill
11	Cheryl Smith	Ben & Jennie Snyder
18	Lacey Brown & Rene Doody	Rick & Scarlett Piersom
25	Diane Schingel	TBN
FEB	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Music Leaders</u>
4	Youth	Youth
11	Rosie Wece	Lacey Brown
18	TBN	Brian Vincent
25	Tracy Hagston	TBN
<u>Ushers</u>		
Todd Doody, Jennifer Watson, Kyle Hargraves, John Erbes, Lowell Heller and Dave Auxier		Paul Chapman and Allen Bigham
Recycling: Gaye Auxier		



Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Most of the congregation probably cannot tell, but the Chancel Choir has new choir folders. Our previous folders were quite literally falling apart. Thanks to the bequest from Bonnie Pinkerton's memorials, we have purchased new folders for the entire choir, plus a few extras for new members. Many of us often give memorials to the church, but we sometimes don't know what is done with the money. This was such a Godsend for us. It was Bonnie's wish that memorials be designated to the Chancel Choir. She was a strong supporter of our music ministry. She always gave Nancy a review of our musical selection each Sunday. She also didn't like if our songs were too short. We would laugh in choir rehearsal about whether our anthem would fit Bonnie's criteria. There is money remaining in her memorial fund to purchase new music for future use.

A big "Thank you" to the Pinkerton family for honoring Bonnie and her wishes.



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



**CROSS & FLAME
MINISTRIES**
DESOTO • MURPHYSBORO

**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

Website: www.crossandflameministries.com



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

MUMC:

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.

Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

DeUMC:

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 Melba Zeigler
Ministry Support Asst Lacey Brown
Children/Youth Coord..... Sage Lintner
Pianist/Organist..... Jenny Kirby
Choir Director Joel Kirby
Nursery Attendant Caitlyn Boyd, Megan Gale

DeSoto Site Staff:

Children/Youth Ministry Jennifer O'Donnell
Ministry Support Intern Tina Nimmo
Nursery Attendant Tara Taborn
Mike & Casey Johnstone..... Caretakers

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Desoto & Murphysboro
United Methodist Churches**
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Murphysboro, IL 62966