

The Messenger

Pastor's Ponderings



Well, it is hard to believe that it has been less than a month. My family and I feel very at home in Sullivan and extremely blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation. I am so looking forward to our following where God leads and accomplishing His purposes together! ☺

Over the past month I have been listening quite a bit, and I hope to hear from even more folks in the days ahead. I have been hearing about areas and activities that folks are proud of and are going well at the church; and some have shared about areas and activities that may need a little more attention. Most have been sharing their hopes and dreams, and where they believe God is calling and directing. What a privilege to be a part of such wonderful and vital conversations.

I am continuing to go before our Lord with the prayers, concerns, hurts, struggles, and praises of our people. I am listening to everyone who is willing and wanting to share. And I am seeking God's guidance, wisdom and counsel in order to lead in ways that are as faithful as possible.

I want to invite you to join me in this endeavor. Throughout August, pray with me as we seek God's guidance together. Share with me what you hear God saying during your prayer times. But most of all, I want to encourage folks to pray about how each will respond and participate this coming Fall. In September, our Christian Education program will be restarting. I am hoping to see several opportunities for adults and youth to gather and grow together. One opportunity will be a 6-part seminar entitled, *"Network: The Right People, In The Right Places, For The Right Reasons."* It is a course which will assist each participant in discovering his/her God-given spiritual gift. I hope you will participate.

Throughout the summer, we are planting seeds as we seek to cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit. This fall, we will begin to gather in small groups and classes meant to help us fertilize and weed so the Spirit's Fruit may continue to grow in each of us!

Pastor Renner

Stephen and Beth (Sanner) Puricelli will be leaving the United States in early August for Port-de-Paix, Haiti. They will both be teaching at Sonlight Academy in Port-de-Paix for the next two years. Beth will be teaching first grade and Stephen will be teaching multiple subjects for middle school students. Sonlight Academy is a Christian school hosting over 300 students and over 320 people attend Sonlight for church services weekly. More information about Sonlight Ministries can be found at www.sonlightministries.org. Beth is the daughter of Stan and Ann Sanner and granddaughter of Norm and Mary Buckner.

A "Best Wishes/Send Off" Reception will be held in the Puricelli's honor on Sunday, August 2, 2009 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and offer their well wishes to the couple. If interested in donating school supplies for the Sonlight Academy, a collection box will be available at the reception.

School Supplies

- 24 Ct Crayola Crayons
- Rulers
- Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (Wide Ruled)
- Colored Pencils
- Construction Paper
- Pocket Folders
- Fiskars Children's Scissors
- Playdough
- Glue Sticks
- Markers
- Stickers
- Pencil Erasers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Expo Dry Erase Markers/Erasers
- Photocopier Paper
- Children's Chewable Vitamins
- Soccer Balls
- Band-Aids
- Glitter
- Calculators
- Notebooks
- Library Books (Especially for grades 7-12)
- Dictionaries

Supplies for Teachers

- Large Scissors
- Staplers
- Paper Cutter
- Room Decorations
- Battery Wall Clocks
- Tape Dispensers
- Expo Dry Erase Markers
- Bookmarks
- Hole Punch
- Sticky Tac (White)
- Electric Pencil Sharpeners

Large Items

- Computers (Pentium III (800 MHz or higher))
- Printers
- Computer Monitors
- CD/Tape Players for Classrooms
- Bookshelves
- Teacher's Desk
- Filing Cabinets
- Televisions
- VCRs
- NIV Old and New Testament Hardcover Bibles
- Playground Equipment
- Bike Racks

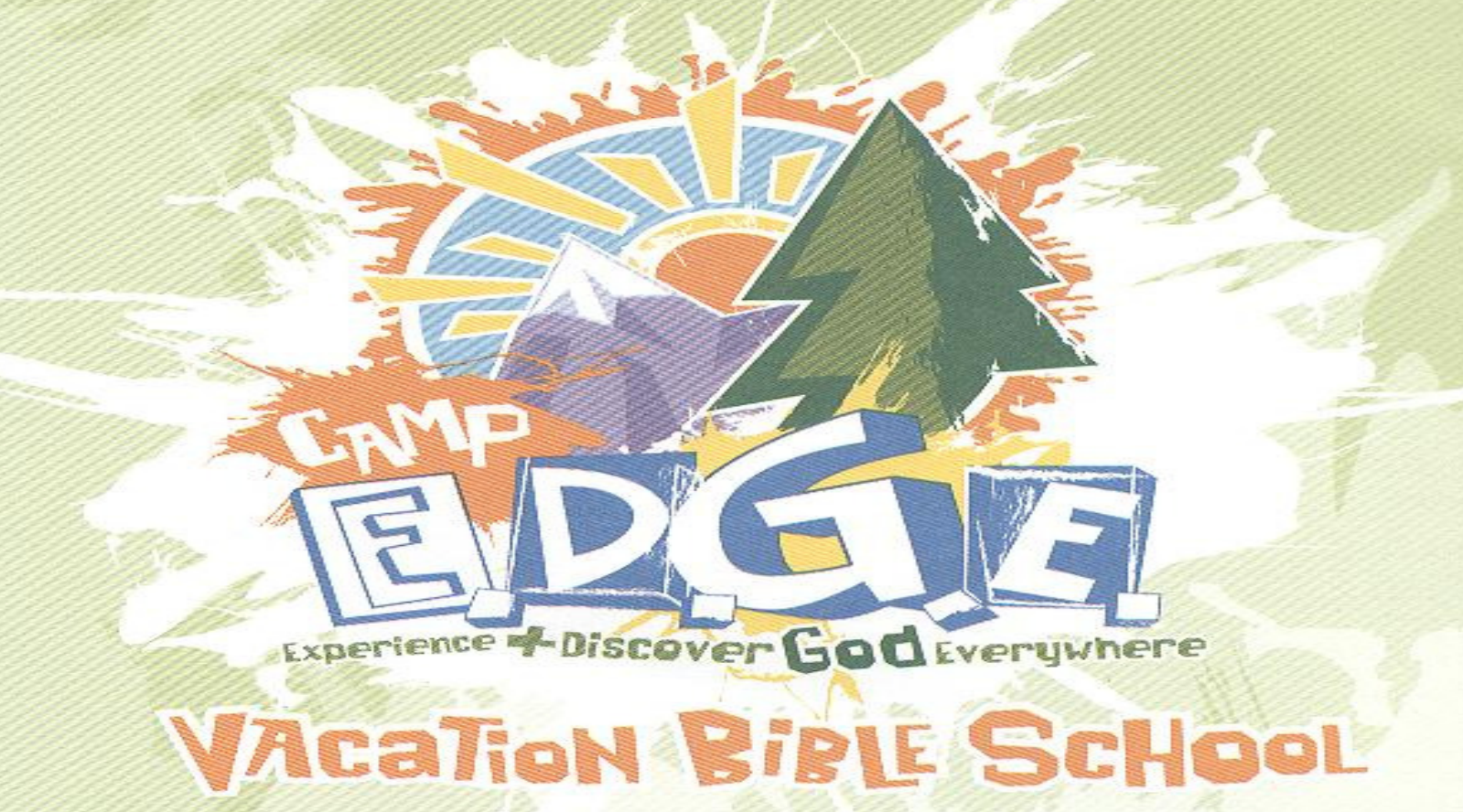


YOUTH
MISSION TRIP
2010

Although our campers just returned a few weeks ago, it is time to start planning for next years mission trip. The 2010 Workcamp will be in Dunmore, West Virginia from June 13—19, 2010. Our first \$50 deposit per person is due in September. Interested students (going into 8th grade this fall through senior year) should notify the church office and pay the \$50 to reserve your spot (we have 25 spots to fill). **We are also in need of 2 adult males to accompany the youth on this trip.** Thank you to the brave ladies who have volunteered! If you have any questions, please contact the church office (728-4436) or call Renee Dugan at 728-4095.



Our church has a homebound team that visits 12 shut-ins monthly. They offer Communion as a part of this ministry. If this is a ministry that you would be interested in or if you know of a shut-in that is not currently being visited, please contact the church office.



CAMP
E D G E
Experience + Discover God Everywhere
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 3–7

Date

First United Methodist Church

Place

216 W. Jefferson, Sullivan

Address

5:30–7:30 pm

Time

Pre-school–Junior High

Ages

Everyone is invited to Friendship Hall on Friday, August 7 from 6:00–7:30 pm for a Vacation Bible School Open House.

Come see the "Camp E.D.G.E." decorations as well as crafts that the children have made, along with a short program of songs and presentations from participants. We will have dessert for all who attend. Hope to see you there!



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the kind words and prayers at the time of my mother's death.

Sincerely,
Jackie Guin

I thank you one and all of the Methodist congregation. It was very nice to get a wonderful card with all the wonderful signatures. I have read it often. God bless you all, Raymond Smith

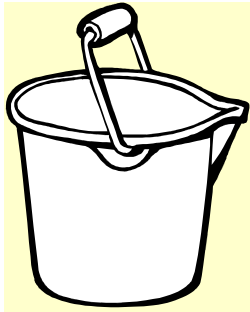
Thank you for allowing us, the RSVP, to use your building for our RSVP 35th recognition. Everyone was so nice and helpful. We enjoyed it. Thank you again, RSVP,
Norma

The family of Nancy Fair thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy.

Thank you to the church and the members who sent greetings to me on my 99th birthday. I had a nice celebration. Blessings to everyone.
Geri Wood

Dear Friends at First United Methodist Church,
What a blessing you are as my partners in this important ministry. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. I'm looking forward to sharing more with you.

In Him,
Debbie Wittig



The Yellow Bucket offering for August will go to the Sullivan Elementary PTO to purchase school supplies. The Yellow Bucket offering for June was \$36 and went to the Moultrie County Beacon Summer Program.

*Iroquois River District Worship Service
to Welcome Bishop Palmer & New Clergy
Sunday, August 30 3-5 pm
Champaign New Horizon UMC*

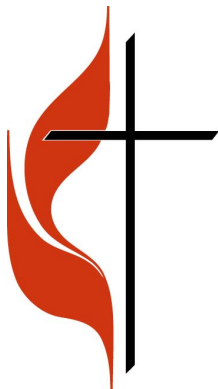
August Memory Verse:

"The guilty walk a crooked path; the innocent travel a straight road."

--Proverbs 21:8



*The deadline for the September
Newsletter is
Monday, August 17.*



First United Methodist Church

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Visit us on the web:
www.sullivanfirstumc.com**