

# The Messenger



## Pastor's Pondering

I just finished the book, *A Charitable Discourse: Talking About The Things That Divide Us*. I've thoroughly enjoyed it and found it both helpful and challenging. The quotation below comes from pages 156-157, and seemed to resonate with respect to our congregation. It is about trust and the author is specifically addressing college age vs. older generations; but the same truth applies to other dynamics like newer and long-time members. My hope is that the following assists us in better communication & trust!

*I am still moved by the powerful words of John Wesley . . . words that begin, "I dare not, therefore, presume to impose my mode of worship on any other," and end with the poignant, "Leave all opinions alone on one side and the other: only give me your hand."*

*Throughout the quotation Wesley is demonstrating trust based on a common confession of Christ as Lord. The church is in need of such trust at several levels. The essence of biblical covenant relationships is found in the Hebrew word 'chesed.' When people enter covenant, 'chesed' is established between them—meaning that each has the right to expect certain behavior of the other in light of the promises made. Trust suggests that we intend to behave in certain faithful ways toward each other while expecting the same in return. The beginning assumption is peace, not conflict; trust, not suspicion.*

*An older generation needs to trust the missional spirit of a younger generation as they seek to reach their changing world. The pessimism about the younger generation is not valid. Our youth are in touch with the same God who found us early in our lives and dreamed through us the church as it became under our leadership. In twenty-five years of service on the campus of a denominational university, I have never heard college students plotting the demise of their grandparents' church. They simply do not think about the preservation of the church we poured our lives into. They are thinking about the expansion of the church into the world. We are tending our aging homes in hopes of preserving them through retirement, and they haven't even considered settling down but headed toward a succession of apartments that serve as the staging ground for their expanding lives. They are going somewhere. We've already been. They are planting trees. We want to pick fruit from what we've already planted. Life is different from our perspectives. We must trust the coming generation to do the work of God in the world—with the hope that our trust in them will engender the kind of mentoring relationship that will make them wiser than they otherwise will be.*

*A younger generation needs to trust the critical response of an older generation. We have lived long enough to see harm done, even when it was not intended. We know heresy when we see it. We know the danger of emotion without reason, and reason without emotion. We are a little cynical because Ecclesiastes has taught us that there is nothing new under the sun—so we suspect that the new is the old recycled. We are a little afraid—because we no longer have the power in the world we once had. Our nation is weaker, our denomination is shrinking in the states, our power to earn money has declined, our nest egg has shrunk, our kind of TV is relegated to one channel, and our music is almost gone. Technology has raced past us. You can text faster than we can think. The world unsettles us. So we react in ways that you interpret as opposition. Please don't. We want to trust you, but we'll need some assurance that you are open to bear our wisdom—even if you decide to do it your way.*

Pastor Renner

# *United Methodist Women*

This spring has moved very quickly and the Women have been very busy with several funeral dinners, the Iroquois District Spring Meeting, Easter Eggs, and the Mothers and Daughters Banquet. The Easter Eggs project was about the same as last year with about 1500 Easter eggs ordered. The Mothers and Daughters Banquet was also well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the dinner, the fellowship and especially the program. Pastor Renner and his staff (The men) did a great job cooking and serving. Thanks to all who helped with decorations, seating and setting up tables.

The women will be serving the Retired Teacher Dinner meeting June 4<sup>th</sup> and also Cake and Ice Cream for the RSVP meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>. The women also want to express our sympathies to the Roney family due to the death of one of our loyal members Ina Roney. She has been an officer in our local organization as well as in the District level.

Below is a list of the June meetings. There are no meetings in July and August with the exception of the Christmas in July Bazaar, bake sale and luncheon July 14,15, 16. More information available at a later date.

**GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 1:00 P.M.  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
LESSON - LAURA ELDER  
HOSTESSES: LOLA HORN & ARDIS SHUMAN**

## **MARY CIRCLE**

Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>. 1:00 pm  
Hostess Laura Elder 85 Pifers Lane

## **MARTHA CIRCLE**

No meeting

## **JULY AND AUGUST**

No General or Circle meetings



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## **Christmas In July**

**Plans are being made for Christmas in July which will July 14, 15, & 16. They are now accepting books in good condition for the sale. They can be brought to the church office. If you have any questions, you can contact Mary White at 728-7770.**

*A lifetime of loving, caring, sharing...*

*Please join us, our  
children and grandchildren  
as we celebrate our  
50th Anniversary  
with an Open House Reception  
on Sunday, June 12, 2011  
From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*at*

*First United Methodist Church  
Friendship Hall  
216 W. Jefferson Street  
Sullivan, IL 61951*

*Your presence will be your gift to us!*

*Mike & Linda Grose*



I wish to thank the Shellabargers for donating the new hose cart, the Blacks for tilling the front flower beds and David VanDeursen for his help. You have made my work so much easier this year.

Shirley Park

Dear Sullivan UMC,  
Thank you for the bible and symbolic gifts. Thank you for also being the church that I am a new member of.  
Sincerely, Cody

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## Summer of the Savior

We are excited to announce that Children's Church will stay alive throughout the summer months. The children will be engaged in activities, skits, and songs centered around the life and teachings of Jesus. Lesson stories include: Jesus as a boy in the Temple, Jesus' temptation by Satan in the desert, The 12 disciples, Build your house on rock, Jesus heals, Zacchaeus- a wee little man, Jesus feeding 5,000, Jesus walks on water, and Jesus loves the little children. The children are encouraged to bring their Bibles each Sunday in order to read the scripture on which the stories are based.

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*“Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit”* (The United Methodist Hymnal)

*We rejoice with those who have received the Sacrament of Baptism*

**Miles James Monroe**

## *Library Update*

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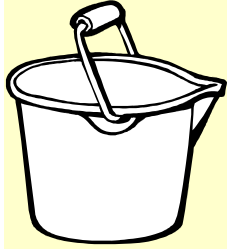
The following has recently been donated to our library:

The Holy Land Experience - A VHS tape

If you have any suggestions for books to be purchased for our library, please let me know. **Keep on reading!**

Lois Shuman





The Yellow Bucket offering for June will go to the Ministerial Association.

The Yellow Bucket offering for May was \$104.75 and went to support the Food Pantry.

**The UMCOR special offering taken on May 8 to support the storm victims was \$1,523.25. The Imagine No Malaria Lenten offering was \$1,588.50**

### **Church Finances**

Needed each month to meet budget: \$23,304

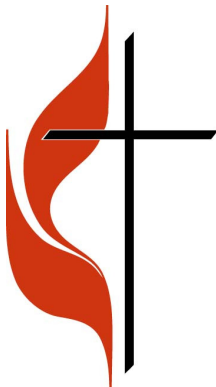
March receipts: \$24,346.98    April receipts : \$19,191.55

March & April Disbursements: \$35,901.64

Campus Balance: \$2,250.39

Mortgage Balance: \$110,857.41

*The deadline for the July Newsletter is  
Wednesday, June 15.*



### **First United Methodist Church**

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**Visit us on the web:  
[www.sullivanfirstumc.com](http://www.sullivanfirstumc.com)**