

The Messenger



Pastor's Pondering

One of the great things about journeying together is having the opportunity to hear one another's stories. Each of us is a culmination of various experiences, memories, and stories. They form us into who we are and how we view the world around us. I feel privileged to be journeying with the good folks of Sullivan First UMC and have enjoyed hearing about where you have come from, formative experiences, and some of your hopes and dreams!

With this in mind, I'd like to do something a little different this Advent. (Yes, it is only October and I am talking about Advent) I'd like to put together an Advent Devotional made up of submissions from folks at Sullivan First UMC. But I will need your help!

I'm asking for folks to submit a Christmas memory, a Christmas tradition, a Christmas poem, or whatever you feel led to share that is related to the Christmas/Advent Season. It should be approximately a half page, and needs to be turned into the Church Office by November 1st!

My hope is to make these Advent Devotionals available by the first Sunday of Advent. This will allow the congregation to have a shared experience of doing the same devotions throughout the Advent Season. It will draw us together and make us one as we hear one another's stories. We may well learn new things about people and families that we have sat with, prayed with, worshipped with for years! So please take a few minutes to share about your favorite Christmas . . . holiday tradition . . . or what you find most meaningful during the Christmas Season . . . and then either e-mail it to the office, drop it by, or mail it!

Thank you in advance, and may the process as well as the product becoming a means of experiencing God's grace. I look forward to reading and learning more about one another as we continue to journey together and seek to be faithful in great and small ways!

--Pastor Renner

Library Update



I am including three brief synopses of books in our church library: two written by Char Black and one written by Janet Freadhoff. These books are both excellent, and I hope this will encourage you to take advantage of these outstanding books and more!

A Better Man edited by Kelly Johnson - This is a collection of interviews and essays from some of the most respected men in America. These men share their experiences and advise on courage, service, anger, and respect. Some of the contributors are men such as Andrew Young, quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, and Tim Reid, best known for playing Venus Flytrap in the long-running "WKRP in Cincinnati." This book is a great gift for young men - one that would encourage them as they make their journey into manhood.

Left to Tell by Immaculee Ilibagiza - This is a true story of the life of this author. When she was 20 years old, in 1994, all hell broke out in Rwanda. She and seven other women hid in a pastor's bathroom for 91 days while the Rwandan Holocaust whirled outside the walls of their hiding place. During their three months of seclusion, the women endured unspeakable terror. Immaculee discovered God during this time and survived to tell her story. This an amazing account of a woman's courage and God's love.

Just Choose Happiness by Nell W. Mohny is an uplifting book giving the reader ideas for increasing their happiness. For example, each day writing down what you are grateful for reminds you how blessed you are.

These books are on the New Book shelf on the east wall of the library. If any of you have read one of our books that you would like to recommend, please let me know.

Keep on reading and using our library!

Lois Shuman



Remember these lost loved ones

"Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 124:8)

May the Lord's comfort and blessings be with the family and friends who mourn the death of Geraldine Wood.

Honduran Mission Trip News & Events

Honduran Sponsors' Visit

Ron & Loretta Davidson will be here on October 27th. There will be a catered meal at 6:00 p.m. in the Friendship Hall, and then Ron & Loretta will share information. Anyone is invited to join. Please fill out the bulletin tab on October 16th or 23rd to RSVP or contact the church office.

5K Fun Run/Walk

October 22nd

Begins at 8:00 a.m. in the civic center parking lot. Preregister by printing a form from the church web site - pick one up at the church office. Cost \$30 (no shirt); \$35 (shirt); \$15 - children's 50 yard run; Family rates: 2 children for \$20; 3 for \$30; 4 for \$40; Family entry - \$40

Deadline to register and get a t-shirt is October 8th. We are also taking sponsors for this event - people can get a form from the website of at the office.

Octoberfest Activities:

Pancake & Sausage Gravy/Biscuit Breakfast:

6:00-9:00 a.m. @ Friendship Hall

Uncle Leroy's Trailer (Fried goodies) and Honduran Mission Booth:

12pm - ? On the Square

Our Annual Auction/Breakfast will be held on November 5th (more details later)

WE NEED DONATED AUCTION ITEMS FOR THIS EVENT!!!



Congratulations to Stote & Dawn (Steckel) Reeder of Jerseyville, IL on the birth of Ty William Reeder, 8 lbs 11 oz. Born 8/8/11 Siblings: Sister Avery, 4, and brother Max, 3

Grandparents: Doug & Peggy (Bland) Reeder, Sullivan and Denny & Marsha Steckel of Jerseyville.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!





Thank you so much for letting us practice at the church! We got 3rd at Nationals and couldn't have done it without you!
Sincerely, Tracy Feldkamp and the Prairieland Twisters

Thanks to my church family for all the love, prayers, cards and visits before, during, and after my recent surgery.

A special thanks to Pastor Renner for coming to the hospital the day of surgery and again later. I am truly blessed.

Delores Weishaupt

Thank you to the church members for the cards and prayers during Geri's last years as well as the condolences at the time of her death. A special thank you to the Salt of the Earth class as well as the Mary Circle for their words of sympathy. Family members appreciated the UMW meal and the opportunity to visit at the church.

Sincerely the family of Geri Wood

We would like to express a very special "Thank You" to all of the individuals who have stepped up and filled the need for Greeters and Ushers during the months of May through September. Your service to the Lord, to your church and all new individuals coming into our church for the first time has been greatly appreciated.

Starting in October we will be launching our new rotating schedule for greeters and ushers and we want to thank all of these individuals who have agreed to be a part of this program. Please know that we appreciate your service very much! The Worship Committee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

October is a beautiful fall month with all the bright colored leaves and the harvest in full swing. Our September General meeting was well attended and we all enjoyed the information given by Lou Ann Banks of the SAIL organization . We learned a great deal about the things they do for people who have disabilities in this region. Several plans were made for the month of October.

There will be no General Meeting in October but it is being replaced by a ROAD TRIP to the MIDWEST DISTRIBUTION CENTER at Chatham. The date is October 5th. we will meet at the church at 8:30; tour the facilities, and then go EAT LUNCH then return home unless we decide to go some place else a suggested place might be the Methodist Conference Center.

October the 9 & 16 tickets will be sold for the Noodle dinner which will be held after the late service October 23 in the Friendship Hall. We will be making noodles the 11, 12, & 13. From 8:30 to noon each day. If you are able to help make noodles please sign up on the registration card on either October 2nd. or the 9th.

Keep in mind the November Luncheon November 2nd at noon for all women in the church. This is a special Thanksgiving Luncheon to THANK all those who have help the UMW in any way with funeral Dinners, special Dinners, Easter Eggs, and special gifts to Cunningham Children's Home, and Lessie Bates Neighborhood House.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

THE MARY AND MARTHA CIRCLES WILL HAVE A COMBINE MEETING ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 18 1:00 pm IN THE FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP HALLS. WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH , men are also welcome, TO A SPECIAL SHOWING BY JANET RONEY OF HER PAINTINGS DECORATING THE FRIENDSHIP HALL.

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. ALL ARE WELCOME.
MARY AND MARTHA CIRCLES.**

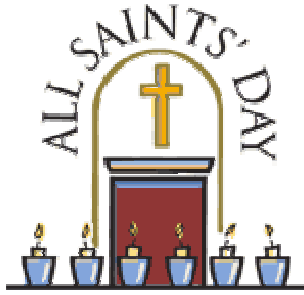


Annual Church Conference

October 24, 2011

7 p.m.

Tuscola United Methodist Church



All Saints Day will be observed on Nov. 6, 2011 during worship service. At this time all members of our congregation who have passed on into eternal life this past year will be remembered.

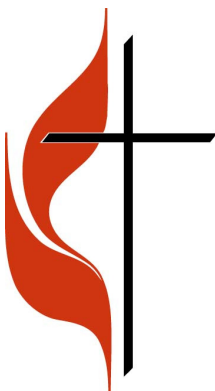
On Sunday, November 13, 2011 we will observe Veterans' Day. We would like to honor all the veterans in our church by the reading of their names along with their pictures. If you would like your veteran to be remembered and honored please submit your veterans information, and a picture if possible, either electronically or by bringing your information and picture into the church office. Please have all your information in no later than October 26.



The Yellow Bucket offering for October will go to Moultrie County DOVE.

The Yellow Bucket offering for September was \$60 but \$200 will go to support Autism Awareness.

*The deadline for the November Newsletter
is Friday, October 14.*



First United Methodist Church

216 W. Jefferson St.
Sullivan, IL 61951
Phone: (217) 728-4436
E-mail: jesusfirst33@hotmail.com

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

Visit us on the web:
www.sullivanfirstumc.com